Children's Hospital plans for new pediatric bone marrow unit
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Kaleida Health has filed official plans with the state to bring pediatric bone marrow transplants to Buffalo.

The system has requested approval from the state Department of Health to add bone marrow transplant services and two new beds for the service at the $270 million John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital of Buffalo, set to open in November.

The pediatric bone marrow transplant program will be housed on the top floor of the 12-story hospital in a joint program operated by Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Though Roswell Park offers bone marrow transplant, they were not able to provide it for children under five years of age, said Allegra Jaros, president of Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo, which will be replaced by the Oishei Children’s Hospital site.

“They really couldn’t because they don’t have a critical care unit for pediatrics, they don’t have the ORs or the emergency room,” she said. “We do at Children’s Hospital, but having that mile and half between us made a big difference, so we really didn’t have a safe way to do it.”

Currently, families that require bone marrow transplant for their infants and toddlers must travel as far as Boston and Philadelphia to access programs at other hospitals.

“We currently don’t do this as a community,” Jaros said. “Now that we’re on the same campus and all the inpatient services are in the new Oishei Hospital, we’ll be able to provide that service to the community, which is amazing.”

Children’s is part of the Kaleida Health system, a $1.5 billion system with five hospitals as well as outpatient, home care and other divisions in two counties.

The hospital received a waiver from the DOH to add the two beds. Bone marrow programs typically require four beds. The project now requires a full review by the DOH through its certificate of need program.