

**Chicago Hospital News**  
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**Center Opens Unit to Meet the Needs of Aging Patients During Acute Illness**

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center announces the opening of a newly renovated, 21-bed Acute Care Geriatric Unit (ACGU). The unit combines treatment of acute illnesses with therapeutic care, which intends to reduce the risk of debility caused by hospitalization. This opening expands access to geriatric care services in the north side community and Illinois Masonic will be one of the only hospitals in Chicago to offer this specialized care for patients 55 and older.

After an extended hospital stay, aging patients—one of the fastest growing populations in Chicago—suffer not only from the illness that initiated the hospital stay, but the negative impact of immobility. Experts in Geriatric Care term this “deconditioning” and its effects can increase the risk of weakness, loss of balance and subsequent injuries and disabilities to the patient.

The ACGU offers a range of support during the hospital stay to help aging patients achieve full recovery. A multidisciplinary team, including Dr. Birinder Marwah, the unit’s medical director, is composed of specialists in geriatrics, physicians, staff nurses, clinical nurse specialists, pharmacists, physical therapists, dieticians, case managers, ministry representatives, audiologists and others.