



To our patients, families and all members of the Southcoast Health community of care:

In 2018, Southcoast Health was honored to help families welcome more than 3,200 babies to the world. Getting families off to the best start possible is one of the areas where we continue to invest in order to provide the highest quality care and access to services.

To that end, we're pleased to announce some exciting changes in maternity services. Southcoast Health will enhance maternity and newborn inpatient services at St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, where the entire third floor will be dedicated to our Women and Children's Pavilion. Our Level II Nursery will offer a range of single-bed rooms equipped for couplet care, where Southcoast Health's expert team of nurses and clinicians will continue to provide specialized care alongside Boston Children's Hospital physicians.

The Women and Children's Pavilion will make St. Luke's a premier destination for maternity and newborn services in the region. This plan builds upon our recent \$14 million investment in the St. Luke's Stoico/FIRSTFED Maternity Center, where moms receive world-class care close to home and deliver their babies in family-centered comfort.

With this exciting development, Southcoast Health will create an optimal birth environment with a full complement of maternity services in one convenient location, including:

- **Couplet care**
- **Lactation consultants**
- **VBAC (vaginal birth after Cesarean-section)**
- **Central monitoring**
- **Patient advocates**
- **Child life specialists**
- **Hydrotherapy**

As part of this plan to improve and coordinate access to exceptional maternity services, Tobey Hospital's Family Centered Unit will discontinue service on December 31, 2019. We understand that this is unanticipated news for expecting mothers planning to deliver at Tobey next year and we will work with them to coordinate care at the St. Luke's Women and Children's Pavilion (less than 20 miles away), or another facility of their choice.

Every decision at Southcoast Health is driven by the needs of our patients and the communities we serve. Still, discontinuing service at Tobey was a difficult one to make.

We deeply value and appreciate the nurses, physicians and support staff of the Tobey Family Centered Unit, and we thank them for their passion and dedication throughout the years. With their positive effect on countless lives, it's no wonder that they are admired by their colleagues and families from across the area. We will work closely with affected Tobey staff and make every effort to identify additional career opportunities within Southcoast, including at our Family Centered Unit at Charlton Memorial Hospital, which also provides exceptional care and is similar in birth volume and services to St. Luke's.

Southcoast's mission is to provide clinical excellence and a uniquely caring experience to every life we touch. Together, we will continue to offer "More than medicine" during life's most important moments. We look forward to welcoming you and your growing family to the Women and Children's Pavilion at St. Luke's Hospital and our Family Centered Unit at Charlton Memorial.

Sincerely,

Renee Clark

*Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Southcoast Health*