



Hotel hospital on way

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GOING to hospital will be like checking into a state-of-the-art hotel when the Gold Coast University Private Hospital is built.

National private hospital group Healthscope, which runs the Allamanda Private Hospital at Southport, announced the development yesterday.

It will join the 700-bed public Gold Coast University Hospital being built at Parklands and will have 320 beds and 15 operating theatres, making it one of the largest private hospitals in Australia.

Allamanda is about 30 years old and some of its services are scattered throughout Southport.

The new hospital will have all services under one roof, including pathology and diagnostic imaging.

Having the services on the one site will allow doctors to switch between public and private patients easily in private consulting rooms.

Allamanda's general manager Rodney Green said this kind of set-up would attract more doctors to the Gold Coast.

"It certainly will be the premier private facility on the Gold Coast," he said.

The hospital is also set to attract patients looking for high-class care, with predominantly single rooms with ensuites.

Healthscope state manager Shane Winterton said the hospital would meet the changing expectations of the community.

"What people expect now is hotel-style accommodation in a hospital

and we will be able to meet that," he said.

"It's long overdue."

Mr Green said Healthscope was going to build something extremely modern and state-of-the-art, featuring the latest technology.

"It's the next step of evolution – everything integrated together," he said.

The intensive care unit will have private booths and theatres will have voice-activated features.

There will also be a private cardiac surgery unit, allowing patients to stay on the Coast for surgery rather than travel to Brisbane.

A construction date is yet to be announced but the hospital is expected to be completed by 2013.



An artist's impression of Healthscope's new luxury hospital