

# Robotic-Assisted Surgery

- The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is introducing a **Robotic Surgical Program** with the acquisition of a **state-of-the-art robotic surgical system** that will allow surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures.
- The surgical robot will be deployed at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon and will be used in urology, head and neck cancer, thoracic surgery and gynecological oncology. It is anticipated that the first robot-assisted procedure will be performed in the fall of 2022.
- Advances in robotic technology have opened the door for the rapid expansion of robotic-assisted surgery. This type of advanced robot-assisted surgery reduces complications and shortens hospital stays for patients compared to open surgery, creating more hospital capacity to perform more procedures.
- Surgical robots are controlled by specially trained surgeons during all phases of the surgical procedure. They are sophisticated tools that enhance surgeon's ability to perform complex, minimally invasive surgery in deep body spaces.
- Robotic-assisted surgery systems are designed to help surgeons perform surgeries in tight spaces within the body, as the robotic surgical tools are small, highly mobile and precise. This specialized instrumentation, including a miniaturized surgical camera and instruments like scissors, scalpels and forceps are designed to help with precise dissection and reconstruction deep inside the body. These robotic surgical systems offer surgeons high-definition 3D vision, a magnified view, and computerized robotic assistance.
- This robot will be the first of its kind in Saskatchewan.
- As robotic technology continues to develop and the SHA acquires experience with robotic surgery, it is expected the program will expand to include other surgical specialties and surgical centers in Saskatchewan.
- The Ministry of Health will contribute up to \$1 million to fund the purchase and will cover annual operational expenses. St. Paul's Hospital Foundation will raise \$1.5 million for the robot and Merlis Belsher Family is donating \$1 million and providing up to an additional \$100,000 as a matched gift. The robot will be named "Daryl" after Merlis Belsher's late son.