Our goal in the next three years is to create a Level III trauma center for the benefit of patients in the region. Many patients must be transferred from our five hospitals’ emergency departments based on protocols and regulatory requirements. These patients are transferred out of our system to facilities that are designated trauma centers in Altoona, Erie, Danville and Pittsburgh. These transfers can create hardships and emotional strains on family members.

In order to be accredited as a Level III trauma center, we must first commit to providing room for the Emergency Department to grow. This growth will be possible with the completion of the West Wing Annex Project. When that project is completed, the area that houses the current cafeteria and administrative offices will be torn down to make room for this construction project. The buildings scheduled for demolition are some of the oldest sections of the current hospital and have been deemed unable to be modernized.

The new Emergency Department/Patient Tower will have two finished floors and three additional to be completed at a later date. The first floor will have 40 Emergency Department bays compared to the current 19. Six of the former bays will be used as an Observation Unit for patients who do not meet admission criteria, but aren’t ready to be sent home. Twelve will remain Emergency Department bays with the addition of 28 new bays. Patients may also be accepted as admissions from other hospitals and held in this area until a bed becomes available. There will be an eight-bay area that will be used for fast-tracking patients who have ailments that can be treated quickly and released, many within an hour.
To be deemed a Level III trauma center, PH DuBois will also need to be prepared for mass casualty events. A decontamination area with deluge showers and lockdown security is also part of the expansion project.

Specialty rooms within the Emergency Department will also be created. Four rooms will be dedicated to patients with behavioral health concerns. There will also be rooms for obstetric patients, pediatric patients and sexual assault victims who require different equipment and a higher sense of privacy.

Two large trauma rooms will be created. The rooms will be able to be divided in half into four.

An additional heli-pad will be added to accommodate trauma patient volume.

The second floor will house a combination of traditional medical/surgical patient rooms and acuity adaptable rooms. All of the rooms will be single occupant rooms with private bathrooms. In total, we will increase our bed capacity by 20 additional medical/surgical rooms at the completion of phase one of this expansion to provide care for trauma and neuro patients.