

Headline:	1st peek at JGH's wards		
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Description:	When Jurong General Hospital (JGH) opens in 2014, be prepared to enter wards that have better ventilation, a clearer view of the lush greenery outside and greater privacy. Unlike conventional wards in government hospitals where the windows are located at the far end of a ward shared by six patients, those at JGH have a fan-shaped design where a window is placed right next to every patient's bed.		

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1st peek at JGH's wards

By Joan Chew



Wards at JGH have a fan-shaped design where a window is placed right next to every patient's bed. -- ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN

THROW out your old notions of cramped, stuffy C-class wards. When Jurong General Hospital (JGH) opens in 2014, be prepared to enter wards that have better ventilation, a clearer view of the lush greenery outside and greater privacy.

Unlike conventional wards in government hospitals where the windows are located at the far end of a ward shared by six patients, those at JGH have a fan-shaped design where a window is placed right next to every patient's bed.

This design is inspired by the interior of an aircraft, where seats are slanted 'to afford some level of privacy and ensure everyone is close to a window', said Mr Foo Hee Jug, Chief Executive Officer of Jurong Health Services, which operates JGH.

Ms Kuttiammal Sundarasan, Director of Nursing at JGH, pointed to how the design is also more hygienic for patients and makes work easier for healthcare staff. She said: 'The curtain in the conventional wards sometimes touch patients' backs and so can be a source of bacteria.'

Those in the new wards are at least a metre from the patient's bed. The design also provides greater privacy as patients do not directly face other patients to their left and right.

Ms Sundarasan explained: 'It can be quite unpleasant when fellow patients cough and vomit right next to you. Also, patients do not always like to come face-to-face with other sick people.'

Read the full report in Friday's edition of The Straits Times.