What’s on CVC Level 3?

This is the main entrance level for the Cardiovascular Center, where most people will enter from the corner of Ann and Observatory Streets. It’s also the location of the outpatient care area, where patients go for doctor appointments and diagnostic tests.

The building’s architects purposely designed this building to be welcoming to patients as they approach, and to create an immediate sense of ease and comfort as they enter. As a result, much of the building, and all of the parking garage, is below street level — so the main entrance is on level 3.

The first thing visitors encounter in the main lobby is the welcome desk, with friendly staff who can help give directions and answer questions from 5:30 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The valet parking office is just inside the door.

Nearby, a stunning bronze sculpture commissioned just for this building catches the eye. Titled “My Heart Is In Your Hand”, it was created by Colorado sculptor Jane DeDecker to symbolize the bonds of trust between patients and health professionals, and between patients and their loved ones, that are crucial to successful treatment for cardiovascular disease.

Further into the building, there’s a balcony that gives a wonderful view of the atrium garden, and a large reception lobby with comfortable chairs named in honor of donors D. Dan and Betty Kahn. This is the waiting area for all the outpatient clinics and the diagnostic unit. Depending on what their visit is for, patients will check in at one of three reception desks.

As patients are called for their appointments, they’ll stop first at one of the stations just inside the clinic doorway to have their vital signs and statistics taken. Then, they’ll proceed to one of 36 patient exam rooms or 12 private consult rooms, each with a computer to allow access to all their electronic medical records and test results.

Here, the doctors, nurses, and other members of the CVC team will work together to assess how well each patient is doing and what tests, procedures, medications, operations and lifestyle changes they might need. Members of five different disciplines — cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, adult cardiovascular medicine, stroke and interventional radiology — work together to hold specialized clinics that help patients get coordinated care from multiple specialists, often all in one day.

Many of the tests that our patients might need can be performed right here, in the 14-room diagnostic testing area. These include treadmill stress tests, echocardiograms, electrocardiograms (EKGs), X-rays, and ultrasound exams of blood vessels in the head, neck, chest, abdomen, arms and legs. The area also includes a blood-draw station for blood tests.

Also on this level, there’s a staff-only walkway to C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, to allow our teams to have easy access — including those who treat hundreds of children with heart defects each year.