
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aster Health breaks ground on new cancer center

WADENA, Minn. – May 08, 2024 – A groundbreaking ceremony took place on May 7, 2024, at the Aster Health Campus in Wadena for a new cancer center. The ceremony was originally planned to be outdoors but was moved inside due to inclement weather. During the presentation speakers from Aster Health, CentraCare, and the community shared their thoughts on the new facility.

The cancer center is a partnership between Aster Health and CentraCare. It will be a state-of-the-art facility offering a wide range of services not easily accessible in rural Minnesota, including radiation, PET scanning, and expanded infusion therapy. With the expertise of the CentraCare oncology team and Aster Health, this program will bring full-service care with better outcomes for patients.

The goal of both organizations is to improve access to cancer care in Central Minnesota. This partnership was spurred by increased cancer rates in Minnesota and patients struggling to receive care. Many people must travel long distances while suffering from cancer symptoms and the effects associated with such intense treatment.

Ken Holmen, CEO of CentraCare took to the podium to share his thoughts on the importance of cancer care in Central Minnesota. “We build on yesterday,” said Holmen who mentioned the immense work completed throughout the history of Aster Health laying the groundwork for the success of tomorrow.

“There is nothing funny about cancer,” remarked Stephen Davis, MD, who serves as a family medicine physician at Aster Health. For several months, Dr. Davis has been battling a form of bone cancer and shared some emotional patient stories impacted by cancer.

Joel Beiswenger, President and CEO of Aster Health concluded the ceremony with heartfelt words about the journey to the construction of the cancer center. “In the end, this will transform the care we deliver, the experience our patients have, who of course, are going through the toughest times in their lives,” said Beiswenger.

Construction started May 8 and will be open to patients in July of 2025.

For more information about the new cancer center, please visit asterahealth.org.



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ABOUT ASTERA HEALTH

Aster Health is a private, not-for-profit health care system based in Wadena, Minnesota. It offers care services such as primary health, surgery, cancer care, diagnostic imaging, obstetrics, orthopedics and rehabilitation. Aster Health operates a hospital and medical clinic in Wadena, and serves the counties of Wadena, Todd and Otter Tail through five satellite clinics and two physical therapy clinics in Bertha, Henning, Ottertail, Sebeka and Verndale. Visit asterahealth.org.

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