
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aster Health celebrates ribbon cutting for new cancer center

WADENA, Minn. – July 9, 2025 – A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on July 8 to celebrate the opening of the new Aster Health/CentraCare – Coborn Cancer Center. The event took place in front of the new facility with community members, staff, public officials, and media members. Attendees were invited inside afterward for tours and refreshments.

Planning for the cancer center began in early 2021. During this strategic planning phase, several opportunities to improve cancer care in the area were identified, particularly with improving access to radiation oncology. These insights led to discussions about building a new cancer center to better serve people in rural Minnesota.

“This cancer center will have a massive impact on the quality of care available to the people in this region. Traveling long distances during cancer treatment is difficult for patients and families. Their focus should be entirely on wellness and healing, and this cancer center accomplishes that,” said Joel Beiswenger, President and CEO of Aster Health. Other speakers included Kenneth Holmen, MD, CentraCare President & CEO; Joanna Slominski, General Manager at Mortenson; and Paul Drange, Chairman of the Aster Health Board of Directors.

The cancer center is attached to the west side of the Aster Health main campus and provides cutting-edge cancer treatment for patients in Central Minnesota. The facility is equipped with eight private infusion bays, a linear accelerator for radiation treatment, and a PET/CT scanner. The linear accelerator is a tattoo-free machine, leaving patients without a permanent reminder of their cancer treatment and is used at other CentraCare cancer treatment centers. The partnership with Aster Health also brings cancer care expertise to the facility.

The Aster Health/CentraCare - Coborn Cancer Center took roughly two years to build and cost approximately \$23.7 million. The 15,350 square-foot addition was funded through a tax-exempt loan and a Capital Fundraising Campaign through donations and grants.

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The cancer center will welcome its first patient on July 14, 2025. The medical oncology care team includes:

- Don Jurgens, MD
- Abigael Luke, MD
- Hilary Ufearo, MBBS
- Cassondra Opatz, NP
- Jamie Udy, APRN, FNP

The radiation oncology team includes:

- Megan Hodges, MD
- Christopher Miller, MD, PhD
- Kadir Mullings, MBBS
- Jamie Udy, APRN, FNP

For more information about cancer care and a virtual tour, visit asterahealth.org/cancer.

ABOUT ASTERA HEALTH

Astera 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. Astera 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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