
News Release

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For Immediate Release

PHOTO: Cancer Center Remodel

Mayo Clinic Health System announces significant investment in Albert Lea

ALBERT LEA, Minn. — Mayo Clinic Health System today announced a multi-million dollar series of investments at its Albert Lea campus designed to strengthen its position as a regional hub for cancer care, upgrade building facilities, establish an integrated behavioral health and addiction services unit and upgrade diagnostic equipment. Investments and enhancements include:

- \$720,000 in improvements to the Cancer Center, one of Albert Lea’s ‘regional hub’ services. Funding has been secured and planning is underway for enlarged, private chemo infusion bays to provide more patient privacy and space for guests, as well as a beautiful fireplace and nourishment center for the comfort and enjoyment of patients. Funding comes from a unique partnership among Mayo, the fundraising activities of Naeve Foundation, and a generous benefactor.
- A \$2.75 million investment in a new state-of-the-art campus cooling plant that is essential to upgrade the entire medical center’s cooling system. This upgrade will enable continued use of building space that would otherwise have been decommissioned, and will pave the way for future renovations and expansions.
- Building short stay observation beds near the Emergency Department in Albert Lea. These beds will allow staff to keep patients for observation for a variety of reasons, such as: recovery from short-stay surgery or effects of sedation, rehydration, or observation after an injury or illness brings them to the ED.
- Creation of an integrated environment for behavioral health care and addiction services, including remodeling to accommodate the transition of the Inpatient Psychiatric Unit (PSU) from Austin to Albert Lea. This transition will bring to Albert Lea a consistent inpatient census of 10-12 patients per day and the staff to care for them.
- Investment in radiology equipment for improved diagnostics. In 2015-2016, Mayo invested approximately \$2.2 million in a new MRI machine and suite. In 2018, a new CT scanner will be added at a cost of about \$600,000. This state-of-the-art equipment, the same as that used by Mayo Clinic in Rochester, will provide the highest-quality imaging with lower radiation exposure for patients.

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“We are a committed part of this community, and we take very seriously our responsibility to provide high-quality local care in a changing rural health care landscape,” said Mark Ciota, M.D., CEO of Mayo Clinic Health System – Albert Lea and Austin. “These investments are an important step in that direction. As the population ages, cancer care will be needed more than ever, and Albert Lea is positioned to grow as a state-of-the-art cancer care hub.”

Annie Sadosty, M.D., regional vice president for Mayo Clinic Health System in Southeast Minnesota, noted, “There is a growing need for behavioral health and addiction care; these diseases touch every community and most families at some time in life. Helping these patients, who are among the most vulnerable in our communities, is an important part of Mayo’s mission of hope and healing.” Regarding the combined positive impact of these Albert Lea campus improvements, Dr. Sadosty said, “These investments – and more to come in the future – are evidence that we are here to stay. Working with the community, we are committed to maintaining a strong medical center and contributing to a healthy, vibrant Albert Lea.”

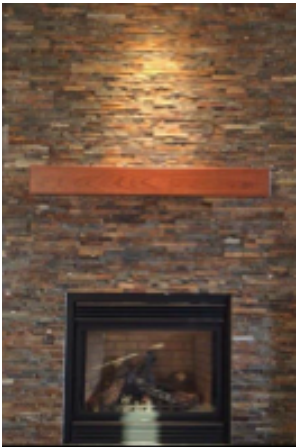
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Mayo Clinic Health System consists of clinics, hospitals and other facilities that serve the health care needs of people in more than 60 communities in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The community-based providers, paired with the resources and expertise of Mayo Clinic, enable patients in the region to receive the highest-quality health care close to home.

Cancer Center Remodel



Improvements to the Cancer Center will include enlarged, private chemo infusion bays to provide more patient privacy and space for guests.



Amenities for patients will include a warm, welcoming lobby with a beautiful fireplace and nourishment center.