HealthEast Cancer Center

Bringing caring, comprehensive cancer care to Washington County
“When I went through chemotherapy at Woodwinds, the nurses made me feel so cared for. They took a very personal interest in all their patients — encouraged us when we were down and celebrated with us when we reached a milestone. Much of the rest of my treatment was at St. John’s Hospital in Maplewood and while they were very caring there as well, it was an extra hour’s drive round-trip. This was especially taxing during my seven weeks of radiation, when I’d have to drive there five times a week to get 15 minutes of radiation and then drive back to Woodbury, where I work. The HealthEast Cancer Center on the Woodwinds Health Campus will be so nice for future cancer patients in the Woodbury area — to have one convenient place to go for all their cancer care: diagnostic tests, follow-up appointments, and treatment. I wish that is how it had been for me.”

—Melissa Borner, HealthEast patient treated for breast cancer
Getting cancer is tough enough; accessing cancer care shouldn’t be

When cancer touches you, it can turn your life upside-down. You’re in uncharted territory and the last thing you and your family need is cancer care in an unfamiliar, inconvenient location — or perhaps multiple locations.

Soon, residents of Washington County and those living nearby won’t have to travel to distant or multiple locations for their cancer care. They’ll be able to experience the best in comprehensive cancer care, all in one convenient location at the HealthEast Cancer Center on the Woodwinds Health Campus.

When planning for this center, we studied the best cancer care practices both within and outside the HealthEast system. More importantly, we also talked to patients that had been treated for cancer at Woodwinds and other HealthEast hospitals and asked what made them feel most cared for and what amenities would make the HealthEast Cancer Center the most comfortable. Here’s what we’ve planned for the HealthEast Cancer Center:

Convenient care:

- A connected, one-level area where all but the most specialized cancer care can be accessed, providing a seamless care experience for patients and better communication among care providers.
- Individually assigned nurse navigators who coordinate the patient’s care plan, providing cancer patients with a single resource for answering questions, arranging care, and navigating the sometimes complicated care routines of cancer patients.
- A dedicated parking area and entrance just for cancer patients and their loved ones. Because when you’re not feeling great, every extra step counts.
- Care suites with consultation and exam rooms that are connected to each other so cancer patients can move from one to another in seconds.
- A dedicated pharmacy with two hoods for compounding chemotherapy medications, reducing the wait time for patients needing an infusion or chemotherapy.

“It’s clear Woodbury is becoming a preferred destination for health care. The HealthEast Cancer Center will be the first facility within our city limits to provide full oncological services. It will be comforting for our residents to get the first-class care they need without leaving the community.”

—Mary Giuliani Stephens, Mayor, City of Woodbury
• A dedicated lab area with tube system, saving time and movement for both patients and providers.

• Many other small details requested by patients, such as plug-ins on the floors of the infusion areas to reduce tripping hazards, separate male and female sub-waiting rooms in the radiation area to improve privacy, and higher toilets to better accommodate older patients.

• A complete circle of care in one location, from prevention to diagnosis through treatment and survivorship.

• Access to radiation, chemotherapy and other infusion treatments, imaging and other diagnostic procedures, provider consultations, genetic counseling, integrative therapies and more.

• Double the number of exam/consultation rooms (from 5 to 10) and increase the number of infusion stations (from 8 to 14), including a mix of private and semi-private stations and express stations for short infusions.

• TrueBeam radiotherapy, the most advanced radiation equipment available, allowing for pinpoint accuracy, faster delivery, and quieter operation.

• Electronic records system that seamlessly and confidentially transfers patient information between authorized providers.

• Oncology Certified Nurses in all areas.

• Four supportive care rooms for meeting with genetic counselors, cancer psychologists, and other providers.

• Staff areas that are nearby, but can be closed off to patients to lessen the noise of an active health care center.

• Music options and ambient lighting in treatment rooms, as well as media options in infusion areas.

• A healing garden that offers a place for patients to be surrounded by the natural beauty of Woodwinds.

• Access to massage, acupuncture, aromatherapy and other integrative services.

• An entrance and waiting area with fireplace and a novel hanging art piece featuring notes from patients & providers sealed in glass.

• A redesigned scheduling area to allow patient and scheduler to sit side by side, as well as a separate scheduling area for patients with multiple appointments to schedule.

• Many special touches reflecting Woodwinds’ commitment to providing a healing environment in harmony with nature.

“As we started making plans for the HealthEast Cancer Center, we thought there was no one better to ask about the design and amenities than our patients, who provided insightful feedback and suggestions that we incorporated into the design and services of the Cancer Center.”

–Dr. Puneet Cheema, Medical Director, HealthEast Cancer Care

Comprehensive, state-of-the-art services:
Meeting a growing need

Just four years ago, a 4,500-square-foot medical oncology and infusion area opened on the Woodwinds Health Campus. It was staffed with a single doctor one day a week and a nurse five days a week. Since then, the number of patients it serves has increased dramatically and now requires two physicians working a combined total of eight days a week to meet the demand.

While cancer touches people of every age, most cancers have higher incidences in older age brackets — a population that is growing in Washington County and other areas served by Woodwinds. In Washington County alone, the number of residents age 65 and older is expected to grow by 250 percent between 2010 and 2030. As a result, the need for cancer-treating radiation services, not currently available at Woodwinds, is expected to grow as well, with particularly high growth projected in Woodbury and surrounding areas.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that more than 40 percent of the national population will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives; the need for convenient, compassionate cancer care is critical. Yet currently, there is no comprehensive cancer center in Washington County. The HealthEast Cancer Center on the Woodwinds Health Campus is needed to serve this growing population and provide them with more comprehensive services close to home.

The new 30,000-square-foot cancer center will be located in the space now occupied by the Woodwinds infusion center and the adjacent HealthEast Woodbury Clinic. This provides the clinic an opportunity to expand its services into the nearby Woodwinds Oak Center as well as a new location on Woodbury’s east side (HealthEast Clinic - Tamarack), easing the clinic’s current space constraints and offering this fast-growing area more convenient access to primary care. At the same time, it will allow Woodwinds to expand its cancer care services and locate them all in one convenient location.

Community-minded:

- A community room in the infusion and chemotherapy area for patients and family members who wish to chat, put together puzzles, do crafts, etc., during longer-term chemotherapy.
- A multi-purpose room for cancer education, survivor support, group classes and community-wide cancer prevention activities.
- Gathering areas near care suites and infusion area.
- A commitment to educate the community about cancer prevention.
- An annual cancer prevention and wellness conference, open to everyone.

"Cancer has touched so many of our family and friends, and unfortunately, it continues to grow. With the new HealthEast Cancer Center, area patients can receive cancer treatment close to home, which can be extremely important, especially when they may not be feeling their best."

–Dr. Elizabeth Cameron, HealthEast Medical Director Radiation Oncology & CyberKnife
These images represent the glass elements that will incorporate patient made collages and messages in a stunning spiral sculpture that will hang from the ceiling of the HealthEast Cancer Center lobby.

HealthEast Care System

Optimal health and well-being

For more information about HealthEast Foundation or to make a gift: healtheastfoundation.org | 651-232-4990