

Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Gilbert has recently broken ground on an expansion of its outpatient cancer facility. This expansion will mean a new service offering and more equipment and treatment areas to better cater to the needs of the increasing number of patients.

With construction underway since January, the 111,000-square-foot additions to the south of the existing 130-square-foot building will include:

- Three linear accelerators (two at opening and one vault for future use) for a future total of six, used for external beam and internal radiation treatments
- 30 additional clinic exam rooms for a total of 60 rooms
- 13 additional infusion bays for a total of 53
- Expansion of Laboratory Intake Center and Welcome Center
- The Cox Center for Integrative Oncology and Cancer Prevention, funded in large part by a grant from the James M. Cox Family Foundation
- Dedicated space for the Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy program
- Additional shell space for future expansion needs

"We're proud to be living our vision of providing premier cancer services in the Valley," Todd Werner, CEO of <u>Banner MD Anderson</u>, said. "Our patients deserve nothing less than the best care and treatment options available."

Since opening in 2011, the cancer center has experienced rapid growth in outpatient volume. The center's model of multi-disciplinary care, coupled with its relationship with <u>The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center</u> in Houston, has attracted more than 5,000 patients and resulted in 50,000 patient visits since its opening. In addition, more than 50 subspecialty physicians are now providing cancer care to patients in need.

"We're excited that we can expand our facilities and in turn, serve more people," said Maggie Row, vice president of clinical operations for MD Anderson Cancer Network. "We look forward to enhancing our services in partnership with Banner Health and continuing to elevate the quality of care available in Arizona."

The new Cox Center for Integrative Oncology and Cancer Prevention will incorporate traditional cancer treatments with evidence-based integrative therapies, such as relaxation techniques to aid in pain and/or stress management. The center will include individualized prevention, screening and diagnosis programs, rehabilitation and community outreach programs, and will also be an invaluable community resource for cancer prevention education. It is expected to open in spring 2014. For more information, please visit www.bannerhealth.com