

# Cancer care site planned for Milford

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## ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

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Milford will own the building but the three hospitals will cooperate to provide the services. Milford's two cancer specialists and their staff will become Dana-Farber employees and provide chemotherapy services. Brigham and Women's will run a radiation therapy unit and Milford will run an imaging services unit, offering CT scans, MRI, X-rays, and the hospital's first permanent PET scanner.

"If patients do come back and forth, all of their care is going to be in the same medical record," said [Lawrence N. Shulman]. "We'll be able to see what's happened when they were at Milford, and the physicians and nurses caring for them in Milford will be able to see what's happened when they're here."

## FULL TEXT

GLOBE WEST 1

Milford Regional Medical Center has unveiled plans for a \$25 million cancer treatment center intended to bring a wider range of services to patients in the western suburbs.

The 54,000-square-foot center is slated to open in November or December of next year on what is now a parking lot across from the hospital.

The hospital offers chemotherapy and imaging services to cancer patients, a group that includes 400 people newly diagnosed each year, and others in various stages of treatment or remission.

Initially, Milford administrators had planned a relatively modest expansion, but the plans grew when they turned to Boston's world-renowned Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

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rays, and the hospital's first permanent PET scanner.

Patients will also be able to take part in clinical trials of new cancer therapies and in so-called "cancer survivorship" programs that help patients deal with the effects of cancer and the side effects of cancer treatments.

A similar center is opening at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth as part of the expansion plans by the two hospitals, which are part of the Partners HealthCare network. Milford, said one official, was a natural choice.

"I know Milford Regional Medical Center quite well, and I know that it's an excellent place to receive care, and the physicians are quite outstanding," said Dr. Lawrence N. Shulman, chief medical officer and senior vice president for medical affairs for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. "It's become increasingly clear to me that they in fact are an excellent partner."

Some of the therapies available at the two Boston hospitals, such as stem-cell transplantation, won't be provided in Milford, but when patients need to come into the city for such care, the Boston-based staff will know who they are.

"If patients do come back and forth, all of their care is going to be in the same medical record," said Shulman. "We'll be able to see what's happened when they were at Milford, and the physicians and nurses caring for them in Milford will be able to see what's happened when they're here."

Milford Regional's Saba said the new center will create a number of new jobs for medical and support staff. But the big winners, said Saba, will be patients, who not only will be able to obtain a wider variety of services closer to home, but will get them from providers that, because they'll all be under one roof, will be better able to work together.

"The whole idea of cancer care is a multidisciplinary approach, and to have all of the services together is a huge help for patients," Saba said.

Credit: Will Kilburn Globe Correspondent. Boston Globe

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