

Ogallala Community Hospital has announced a \$2 million expansion to accommodate more outpatient clinic services in the community.

Construction involves a 3,800 to 5,000 square-foot extension of the hospital. Banner Health, which has a lease agreement to operate Ogallala Community Hospital, is paying for the project.

Visiting specialists provide care in bariatric surgery, cancer, ENT, gastroenterology, heart, obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, podiatry, pulmonology and urology.

Construction will be on the northwest side of the existing hospital, which is at 2601 N. Spruce St. It will connect to the hospital and sit directly across from the Banner Health Clinic. The visiting specialists currently share space with family practice physicians.

The new space will offer approximately seven exam rooms, nurse's station, physician offices, procedure rooms, telehealth/consultation room and support areas.

The infusion service that currently resides in the hospital's respiratory department will move to the new clinic where oncology nurses and a visiting oncologist will be located. Another area will be structured to provide telehealth capabilities where local physicians and patients can consult with specialists in other communities.

"It's a generous donation. For Banner Health to step forward and build the specialty clinic is an asset to the community," said Gary Schreiner, Ogallala Community Hospital advisory board president.

Visions in Architecture of Lincoln and Omaha will serve as the architect for the project, which should take about eight months from the start of construction to complete.