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801 E. Wheeler Road
Moses Lake, WA
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 **SAMARITAN**
HEALTHCARE
NOVEMBER 2022

the Samaritan



Jordan Smith, DO

Andrea Matson, DO

General surgery—close to home.

It's comforting to know that surgical procedures can be performed close to home in Moses Lake. Samaritan Healthcare's General Surgery department specializes in diagnosing and surgically treating medical conditions that require scheduled, urgent, or emergency surgery.

Dr. Andrea Matson and Dr. Jordan Smith are our full-time, on-staff general surgeons. They perform the full range of surgical procedures and specialize in a variety of techniques—including traditional and minimally invasive surgeries—to perform procedures for both common and complex conditions.

"As surgeons, our guiding principle is to heal people and we appreciate being able to provide surgical care for our patients close to home," said Dr. Matson. "We enjoy getting to know patients as we diagnose their conditions and perform the necessary surgical procedures so they can return to health."

What is the difference between traditional/open surgery and laparoscopic/minimally invasive surgery?

During a traditional surgery to repair a hernia, for example, the surgeon makes one large incision (about 1.5-2.5 inches) to identify the hernia and to push back the organ (such as intestines) into the abdomen. The abdominal wall is then strengthened with stitches or mesh.

Laparoscopic hernia surgery is minimally invasive. This means the surgeon uses three small, separate incisions (each less than 1/2 inch) to insert the surgical tools and a small camera. Gas is pumped into the abdomen to give the surgeon room to repair the weak abdominal wall with stitches or mesh.

What is the average recovery time for a hernia surgery?

Those who have an open hernia surgery typically can resume normal activities within a few weeks and can resume exercise within four to six weeks.

Story continues on Pg. 2



Samaritan Clinic on Patton:
8420 Aspi Blvd, Moses Lake
Appointments: (509) 793-9770
CareToday: (509) 793-9782

Samaritan Clinic on Pioneer:
1550 S. Pioneer Way, Moses Lake
Appointments: (509) 793-9770
CareToday: (509) 793-9790

Samaritan Business Building:
1616 S. Pioneer Way, Moses Lake

Those who have laparoscopic hernia surgery typically can resume normal activities in a few days.

“With smaller incisions, patients typically experience less pain, require a shorter hospital stay—and are often released as an outpatient,” said Dr. Smith. “However, not all surgeries, including hernias, can be repaired laparoscopically. Recovery time varies depending on the patient and the type of surgery.”

About Dr. Andrea Matson and Dr. Jordan Smith

Dr. Andrea Matson and Dr. Jordan Smith are Samaritan Healthcare’s full-time, on-site general surgeons—specializing in using both traditional and minimally invasive techniques.

Samaritan General Surgery is located at Samaritan Clinic on Pioneer, Suite 305. Talk to your primary care provider about a referral to Dr. Smith or Dr. Matson or call 509.793.9792 to learn more. 

General Surgery

Here is a partial list of surgical procedures provided at Samaritan’s General Surgery

- Appendectomies
- Breast procedures
- Colonoscopies
- Emergency surgery
- Endoscopies
- Hepatobiliary surgery
- Hernia repair
- Laparoscopic (small incisions)



Hospital News



Samaritan’s Chronic Care Management team.
L-R: Carolyn Egts, Nicole Tabert, and Imie Lee

Carolyn Egts saved a life.

Carolyn Egts, our community health worker, provides services and assists patients in our Chronic Care Management (CCM) department. One day, Carolyn received a phone call from a CCM patient who sounded scared, and complained of feeling faint and light-headed with double vision. Even on the phone, Carolyn could tell the patient was disoriented and confused. Carolyn immediately called emergency medical services (EMS) and EMS picked up the patient right away. Her blood sugar was a low 48, so EMS treated her and brought her to the hospital.

“Carolyn did a wonderful job recognizing when a patient was in distress. I can’t say enough how blessed I am to have Carolyn on our CCM team,” said Nicole Tabert, RN, Clinic Care Coordinator at Samaritan. “She does an excellent job with all her patients and they all love her. Carolyn saved this patient’s life. If Carolyn had not recognized her disorientation or confusion, the patient could have passed away from hypoglycemia.”

Kudos to Carolyn for her dedication to her CCM patients and her excellent listening skills. 


Foundation News



21st Annual Samaritan Foundation Desert Golf Classic

The Samaritan Healthcare Foundation’s 21st annual Desert Golf Classic, held on September 15, was a fun event for a worthy cause! The purpose of the Desert Golf Classic was raising donations for Samaritan’s new community medical campus.

126 players on 32 teams played in support of Samaritan Healthcare Foundation and our #BuildCommunity campaign for a new medical campus—contributing more than \$25,000 toward the campaign.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, players and volunteers that came out to support our annual event! 

Sierra Becken Photography





Our community's new hospital—designed for our growing region.

Samaritan Hospital has a 75-year history as being a community hospital. Grant County Public Hospital District No. 1 was formed in 1947 and two years later, with the support of the community, the hospital opened in a converted barracks.

The last major addition/renovation to our community's hospital was more than 20 years ago. Expansion will meet the needs of our growing region and continue to offer high-quality healthcare close to home. The proposed new hospital will provide an expanded emergency department (ED), increased surgical capacity, added support for specialty services, improved design for easier access to lab and imaging, increased space for new medical equipment, technology, and supplies, more efficient air handling; meet ADA standards, and much more.

“On days where there are a lot of patients and the ED is overcrowded it is more complicated, but we rise to the challenge,” said Rebecca Suarez, RN, Director of Emergency Services at Samaritan Healthcare. “Staff are more efficient when given adequate work space, patients are placed in appropriate care areas, such as flex care or trauma room, or a main ED bed.”

In July, the Samaritan Healthcare Board of Commissioners turned down the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) due to the gap between increased project costs caused by inflation and available financing.

“From increased labor due to staffing shortages and supply chain issues, to costs of materials—all are affected,” said Dale Paris, Commissioner of Samaritan Healthcare. “The Board is committed to finding a solution to building our new community hospital while not reducing patient care areas and functionality.”

We have also been actively looking for additional funds, such as:

- We received a once-in-a-lifetime, low-interest loan from the USDA. Of the total \$136 million loan, \$96 million of it is at a remarkable 2.25% interest rate, which significantly increases the value of this loan. Samaritan will not be able to apply for this loan again due to our population growth, which makes us ineligible for future USDA loan programs.
- As we advocate for additional grant funding, meetings have been held with the City of Moses Lake, Grant County Commissioners, State Legislators, plus receiving Grant County SIP funding of \$150,000.
- With the support of our Congressional delegation (Congressman Newhouse and Senators Murray and Cantwell), funding for Samaritan Hospital's Women and Infant Services Initiative has been included in the fiscal year '23 Appropriations bills in both the House and Senate. These bills are expected to be enacted in December of this year and could mean up to \$2.5 million for the Hospital's project.
- With thanks to our generous community, we have already raised \$1.3M of the \$2.5M Samaritan Foundation's goal for the project.

Thank you for your ongoing support. In the coming weeks we will provide updates as we continue to move our new community hospital forward. Since 1947, for the community, by the community. All of us, for each of you, every time.

Learn more about the new hospital plans at SamaritanHealthcare.com 

Volunteer Spotlight

Her compassion for others motivates this volunteer.



Kathy had been thinking about volunteering for more than two years, however, due to the Covid protocols, she had to put her desire to help others on hold. She understood the importance of the precautions, but she was still sad that visitors were not allowed to visit those who were sick or frail. In July 2022, when the protocols changed and people were once again allowed to volunteer, Kathy began assisting at the hospital gift shop for the Samaritan Healthcare Foundation.

As one who enjoys decorating, painting, and ceramics as her own hobbies, Kathy loves to create artful displays at the gift shop. Even more than using her creativity, she especially enjoys helping patients, visitors, and staff to purchase gifts for themselves or to help them find the perfect treasures for others.

Kathy has been married to David for more than 26 years and they have two daughters and two grandsons. They all enjoy spending time together as a family, which keeps her busy. Volunteering has now given Kathy a renewed sense of purpose at this time in her life and she looks forward to this new chapter with her role and responsibilities as a volunteer.

For information about volunteering or to apply, call 793-9724 or visit samaritanhealthcare.com/volunteer. 



Ask

SAMARITAN

@samaritan.healthcare

Enter your questions at samaritanhealthcare.com/asksamaritan

Our doctor will answer your questions at our monthly Ask Samaritan event—LIVE on Facebook!

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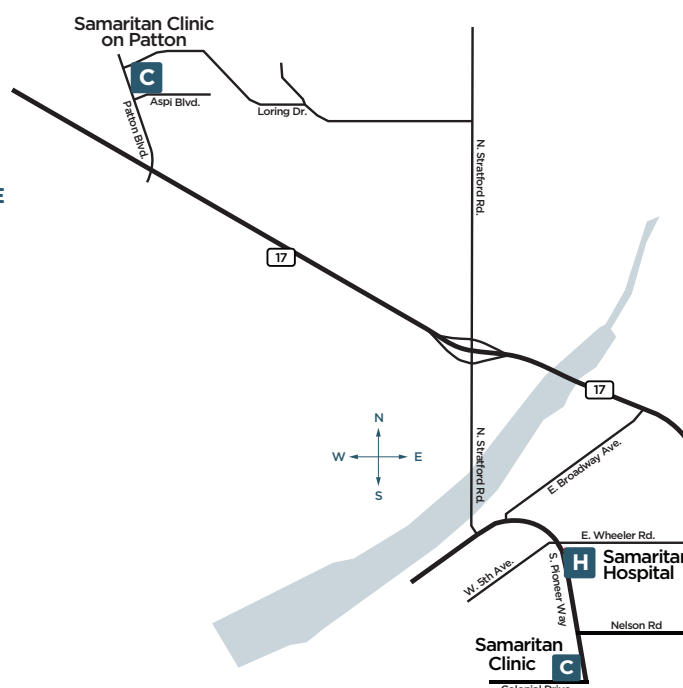
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THE SAMARITAN is published as a community service for the friends and patrons of SAMARITAN HEALTHCARE, 801 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake, WA 98837, telephone: 509-765-5606, website: samaritanhealthcare.com.

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Information in THE SAMARITAN comes from a wide range of medical experts. If you have any concerns or questions about specific content that may affect your health, please contact your healthcare provider.

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Follow us on:  

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