

The Integris Clinical Informatics team from left to right, Charlie Nguyen, MSN, RN, Amanda Just, MSN, RN, CCDS, and Jennifer Watson, MSN, RN

evidence-based practice and real-world experience. University.

The two go hand-in-hand during a unique collaboration between Integris Health and informatics program get to take part in real-Northeastern State University.

April Nelson, DNP, RN, CCRN, CNE is the education.

by Bobby Anderson, Staff Writer

Two things in nursing just can't be beaten: nursing program director at Northeastern State

Each year, students in the university's nursing

"The clinical partnership between Integris and the NSU nursing program provides experiential learning opportunities for graduate nursing students to understand the demands and challenges of world practicum hours that help shape their nursing informatics," Nelson said. "This academic-

POWER **Continued from Page 1**

practice collaboration effectively allows our students to learn and develop the skills needed to work in various healthcare settings. During the practicum, students work with Integris nurse leaders to learn about various aspects of nursing informatics, such as electronic health records, clinical decision support systems, healthcare technology solutions, and data analysis to inform practice.

"Combining the expertise and resources of both NSU and Integris creates a more seamless and effective learning environment for nursing informatics students to improve patient care."

Amanda Just, MSN, RN, CCDS works as an Integris clinical informaticist.

Just herself is also a Northeastern State grad.

"We have always been open to taking students and having them shadow our work here at Integris," she said.

In fact, Just was the first program graduate hired with two more joining the health system since.

Just said her boss, Informatics Manager Donald Kern-Tuller, MSN, RN-BC, SCRN, has been supportive of

the collaboration, which is expected to grow.

"During their time at Integris, the NSU nursing informatics students appreciate the process of learning through hands-on experience and active involvement in a real-world setting," Nelson said. "They apply their knowledge and skills in a health system organization and receive guidance from experienced nursing informatics professionals. This collaboration helps students to develop professional relationships and networks, which can be valuable resources as they progress in their careers."

For Just, it was the perfect opportunity to grow her career.

"For me, I was in a leadership role so when I decided to pursue my master's degree I began looking for nursing administration programs," Just said. "It was on my way to lunch one day I discovered Integris nursing education was hosting an event."

That event had information on a number of online master's programs that were available, including one in her hometown of Tahlequah.

"I was surprised they offered a 100-percent online master's degree and it was in-state," she said. "I had done some research about certifications and master's degrees and making sure they're recognized across state lines. You have to be kind of cautious about who you choose for an online program.

"NSU did offer the administration program I was looking at but they also had the informatics degree. In my leadership role, I use data every day to help drive my team and their work. The informatics track actually sounded more challenging and more fun."

Just's original plan was to use her degree to help support her leadership role in Clinical Documentation Integrity.

"But when I did my preceptorship in the Informatics Department here at Integris I loved the work so my last semester I ended up transferring out of my leadership role and into this role as an informaticist. That was almost two years ago," Just said.

With 20 years of nursing experience, Just says her career has been invigorated.

"Bedside nursing, a lot of people are getting burnt out. It can be taxing and it can be hard on worklife balance," she said. "Transitioning into a different type of nursing, a different way to nurse, and having that flexibility to be there for my family and still advance my career has been vital for me."

Just's nursing career has spanned from the OU Trauma Center PACU to home health as an ADON and then to Integris 13 years ago in a quality role.

Her day-to-day role as an informaticist covers women's and children's, case management, and a new area of patient logistics.

"I have been able to grow here," she said. "I feel like in nursing in general if you are in a part of nursing you don't see yourself doing long-term there's always different avenues to turn. Cast your net out and find out what those avenues are."

"I feel like that as a nurse informaticist I can provide nursing care for my patients through technology. In my role, I deliver nursing care by taking my clinical knowledge and embedding it within the technology. I assist in creating EMR tools that use nursing knowledge and evidencebased practice."

"It's still challenging and there's still stress but it's a different kind of stress," Just said. "Whenever you enjoy the work you do sometimes it feels like you're not working at all." For more information about INTEGRIS Health visit:

https://integrisok.com/careers



Stillwater's 'Pink Out' gift to OMRF takes on special meaning



Stillwater High School girls basketball Coach Kendra Kilpatrick, right, with her husband, Ross, and children. Kilpatrick died of breast cancer Nov. 26, 2022.

Her record may not equal the NCAA basketball coach of the same name, but Stillwater High School's "Coach K" left an enduring legacy of her own.

In addition to the example she set for her former students and basketball players, Kendra Kilpatrick's legacy includes helping fund research aimed at breast cancer – the disease that took her life on Nov. 26. She was 36.

Stillwater students last week presented the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation with a check for \$13,489.52 in Kilpatrick's honor, all raised during their bake sales, T-shirt sales and other fundraisers comprising the school's annual "Pink Out" week. Every dollar will go directly to cancer research at OMRF.

"Coach K was beloved by everyone," said her friend and fellow teacher, Jody Webber, who advises the student group that leads Pink Out efforts. "She was a lover of students – of all people, really – and you felt that love from her."

Following the check presentation, students met with OMRF cancer researchers, including Jake Kirkland, Ph.D., who joined OMRF from Stanford University. Kirkland's research focuses on a chemotherapy called doxorubicin, better known as the "red devil" for its toll on the patient's body.

"About half of patients with breast cancer seem to respond to doxorubicin. My goal is to better determine who it will help and who it won't," Kirkland said. "If we know that, we can avoid putting women through unnecessary

suffering caused by the drug."

Stillwater senior Bess Glenn said the visit to OMRF was a valuable learning experience.

"I really enjoyed learning about all that OMRF does and how our Pink Out Week donations make a difference. The passion and knowledge the scientists shared was inspiring," said Glenn.

Since designating OMRF as the beneficiary of their fundraising efforts in 2011, the Stillwater community has raised more than \$114,000 for the foundation's scientists.

"We are so grateful to Stillwater High School's students, their families, and the teachers and staff who put in an incredible amount of work to raise these funds," said Katherine Jackson, OMRF's donor relations coordinator. "This kind of consistent support is critical for our researchers to continue their life-changing work on this terrible disease."

Work at OMRF has led to an experimental drug called OKN-007, which is undergoing clinical trials at the OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center and a dozen other sites around the U.S. to treat patients with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer. The drug has also shown promise in diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), a fast-growing pediatric brain cancer.

Donations like those honoring Kilpatrick make such discoveries possible, and that, said Webber, is part of her legacy.

"This is part of what helps her to live on," Webber said.



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CAREERS IN NURSING: HEALING PRESENCE OF GOD - SSM HEALTH AT HOME HOSPICE IS THERE

by James Coburn - staff writer

A big ball of love wraps around hospice patients. They can't help being more at ease. Hospice is more than a career for Melody McCormick, RN, and manager of SSM Health at Home Hospice.

McCormick has been a registered nurse for 26 years since graduating from nursing school at Rose State College, located in Midwest City. She has been a hospice nurse since 1999.

"I think you either love hospice or you find out rather quickly it's just not for you," McCormick said. "The reason I became a nurse is because I feel like I was called by God to do this. It's not just my career, it's my purpose. It's what I was born to do."

SSM Health at Home offers hospice services headquartered at 601 N.W. 11th Street, suite 200 in Oklahoma City, across the street from SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital.

A good hospice nurse should

be compassionate and comfortable with the dying process, McCormick said. It's important to anticipate a patient's needs before they arise. They educate patients and families what to expect.

"In that realm nurses have to work pretty independently because you're managing symptoms rapidly," McCormick said. "So, you have to have good communication skills so people can communicate with physicians what the patient's needs are with good assessment skills so you can relate back to them how effective medications are."

She loves and embraces the SSM Health mission of revealing the presence of God through exceptional health care services. McCormack was recruited to help with the palliative program four years ago. Rather than continuing to refer patients to other hospices, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital created its own hospice care. "We can take care of patients all the way from birth until death and take care of any health needs they may have along the way," McCormick said.

She believes the hospice is carrying forth the historical legacy of what the Sisters of Saint Mary started at the hospital by carrying for people in their most critical times.

"I believe we are just so blessed that we are able to continue what they started so many years ago," McCormick continued. "I have the most amazing team of coworkers."

Many of the nurses are seasoned with more than 20 years of hospice experience. They like to say they are walking people home by carrying for them in the final leg of their journey on earth, McCormick explained. She commends the nurses for being caring, professional and smart.

SSM Health at Home Hospice serves a 50-mile radius of patients

from midtown OKC extending to Seminole, Blanchard, El Reno and Guthrie.

"We do have an office now in Shawnee, so eventually we could go 50 miles from that hospital as well," McCormick said.

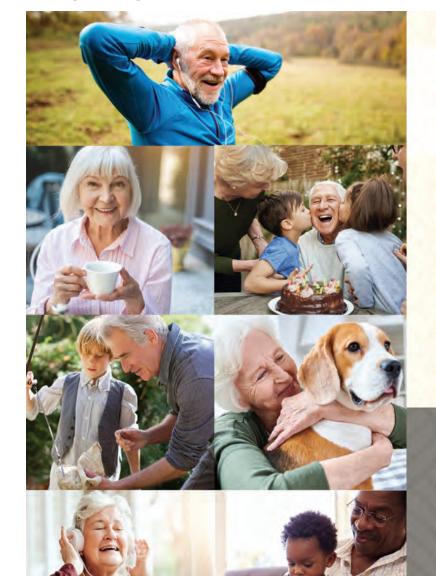
People consider their hospice nurses as angels, she added.

An ability to take people from a place of desperation to a place of peace and calm with acceptance is a blessing, she said. Education is a huge part of hospice.

"There should be no surprises," she said. "Everybody should know what's coming, what to expect. It makes the anxiety that goes along with it a whole lot less."

It's not uncommon to find SSM Health at Home Hospice nurses praying with their patients by asking their Savior to intervene with peace and to walk with each person calmly in their transition.

See MCCORMICK Page 5



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Hospice is a gift. It's important to anticipate a patient's needs before they arise, says Melody McCormick, RN, and manager of SSM Health at Home Hospice.

MCCORMICK Continued from Page 4

Nurses shine with confidence to let families and patients bond. There is relief in knowing hospice provides symptom management, pain relief, chaplains, grief counseling, and providing social workers to navigate through endof-life preparations.

"It's amazing what the Lord will do in those moments of crisis where we are able to intercede on their behalf, and He is always so faithful to help us in our moments of need," she said.

McCormick said SSM Health at Home Hospice meets patients wherever they are in life.

"There should always be peace.

And we would have failed if there wasn't," she said. "I can't think of a time when there was not."

Her life is one of fulfillment. She and her husband have a foster child. The family enjoys traveling. McCormick seeks adventure by scuba diving, white water rafting and skydiving.

"I think one thing about being a hospice nurse, it has taught that none of us are guaranteed a tomorrow," she said. "And it's important for us to make those memories and start those traditions that are carried on to my children and will be passed on to my great grandchildren."

She is always planning her next trip.

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OMRF adds new physiologist

The Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation has added Sue Bodine, Ph.D., to its scientific staff. She joins OMRF's Aging and Metabolism Research Program from the University of Iowa, where she was a professor.

Bodine is a neuromuscular physiologist who studies how muscles respond to positive and negative factors like exercise and injury. She hopes to find methods to slow muscle loss to help people maintain strength and independence as they age.

"Dr. Bodine and her team bring new and important expertise to OMRF," said Holly Van Remmen, Ph.D., who leads the foundation's Aging and Metabolism studies. "Her work will further our shared goal to improve healthy aging, which includes maintaining healthy muscle and sustaining daily activities."

Bodine received a bachelor's, master's and doctorate in kinesiology from the University of California, Los Angeles. In the three decades before joining the University of



Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientist Sue Bodine, Ph.D.

Iowa, she worked as a pharmaceutical scientist and was a faculty member and researcher in the University of California system.

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Health Care Training is a Core Area of Francis Tuttle

Among the most highly regarded of the many career training programs offered at Francis Tuttle Technology Center are those in the health sciences. From programs for adults looking for a new career, to those designed to prepare high school students to earn a living while exploring other health career options, there are many available to choose from to help people who are considering pursuing a career in the helping professions of health care. Francis Tuttle has experienced faculty who have worked extensively in the industry, with state of the art equipment used in health and medical facilities throughout the metro area and around the country, and a dedicated focus to help fill a looming skills gap. Below is a brief description of each of Francis Tuttle's program offerings.

The **Pre-Nursing** program for adult and high school students is an exciting opportunity to begin exploring a health care pathway and see what careers are available with additional training. Students gain knowledge about the broad spectrum of health professions. Through the program, students can obtain



certification as a Nurse Aide (CNA) and an Advanced Unlicensed Assistant (AUA).

The unique Respiratory Care program for adult students works cooperatively with Oklahoma City Community College, whereupon completion, students receive a Certificate of Completion from Francis Tuttle and an Associate of Applied Science degree from OCCC. Students are trained to assist with the treatment of individuals with pulmonary and cardiac disorders, and obtain eligibility to take the national examinations to earn a Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential and apply for an Oklahoma Respiratory Care Practitioners License.

The **Practical Nursing** program prepares adult students to provide quality health care in a variety of settings. Three enrollment options are available to best fit student needs: full-time, blended online, and the 1+1 program. Upon completion, students are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN).

The unique **Orthotic & Prosthetic Technician** program, along with certification in Pedorthics, each for adult students, is a hands on program to prepare students to assist the disabled by fabricating the orthopedic braces (orthoses) and artificial limbs (prostheses) necessary for their rehabilitation. Pedorthics offers specialized training to manage comprehensive pedorthic patient care for all injures and pathologies involving patient feet. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the American Board of Certification (ABC) national certification exam to be recognized as a Certified Technician in Prosthetics and Orthotics (CTPO). After training and one thousand hours of work experience, students may take the Pedorthic Certification Exam (ABC or BOC) to be a Certified Pedorthist (C.ped).

The Dental Assisting program prepares adult students to become members of the dental health care team. Dental assistants have the opportunity to enhance the efficiency of the dentist in the delivery of oral health care. Upon completion of the program, students can obtain certification as a Dental Assistant (CDA).

Each program offers the potential for a high paying career and Francis Tuttle is dedicated to serving the growing demand for a highly qualified workforce in the health care industry. If you're interested, or know someone who is looking to expand their horizons through the expanding field of medical care, check out these and other programs at www.FrancisTuttle.edu and get started on your future today!

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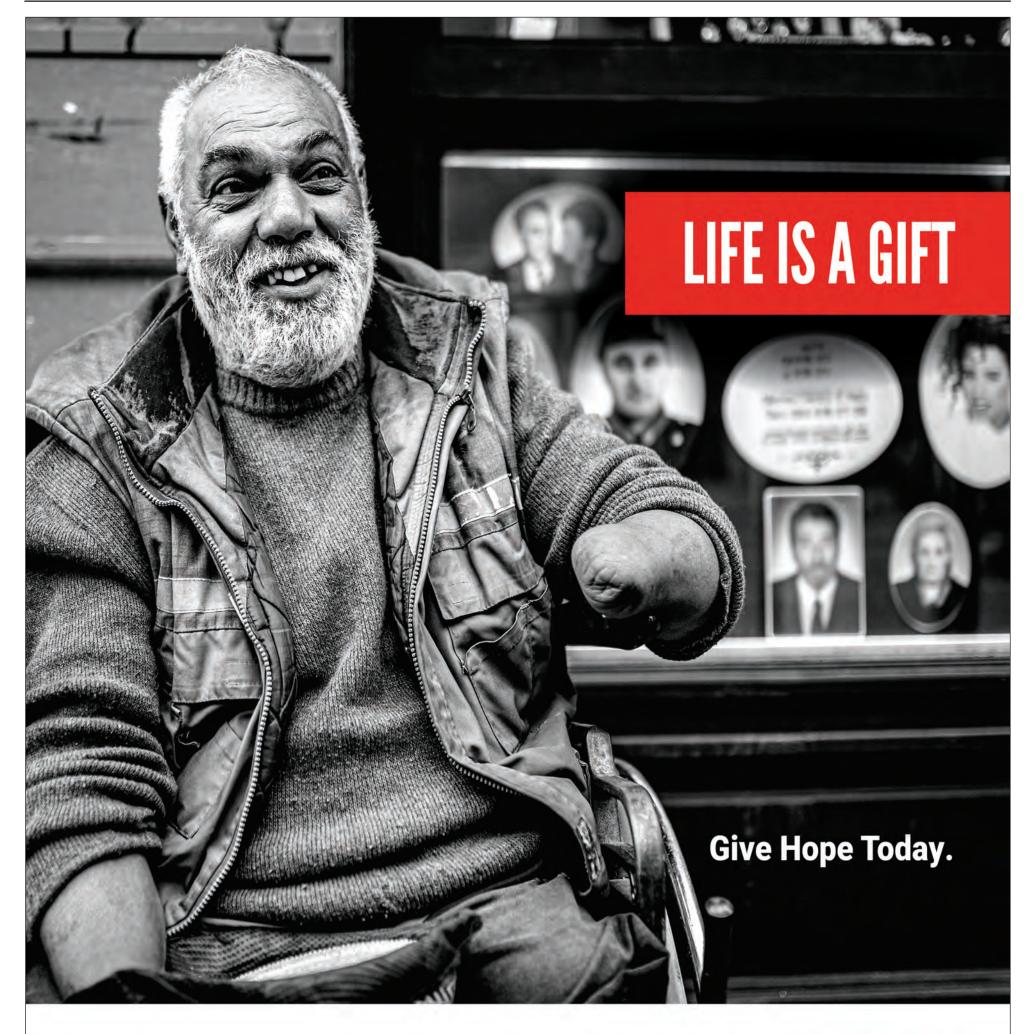
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Valir PACE

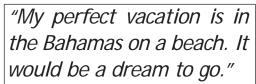


"My perfect vacation

would be at Disney World

Chloe Lester, RN, clinic manager

"Out on a beach, that's my favorite vacation to relax."





Shantiniece Wilson, CNA



Lisa Piere, CNA



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OKNT CROSSWORD: Medical Terms

Across

1. the change in the type of adult cells in a tissue to a form that is not normal for the tissue

pertaining to the ileum and cecum
excessiva amt of cholestrol in
blood

8. the part of the pharynx that lies above the level of the soft plate 10. abnormal multiplication or increase in the number of normal cells in normal arrangement in a tissue

11. formation of white spots or patches on the mucous membrane of the tongue or cheek

13. unable to control excretory functions

15. local and temporary deficiency of blood supply caused by obstruction of the blood flow to the part

16. pertaining to or compromising the skeleton and the muscles

17. formation of an area of

coagulation necroses in a tissue

caused by local ischemia

20. a transparent slightly yellow liquid of alkaline reaction, found in the lymphatic vessel and derived for the tissue fluid 21. pertaining to the myocardium 23. irrigation or washing out of an organ such as the stomach or bowel

Down

2. disease of the lymph nodes

 enlargement of the liver and spleen
pertaining to the neurology or the nervouse system

6. excision of the posterior arch of a vertebra

9. elevated concentration of any or all of the lipids in the plasma

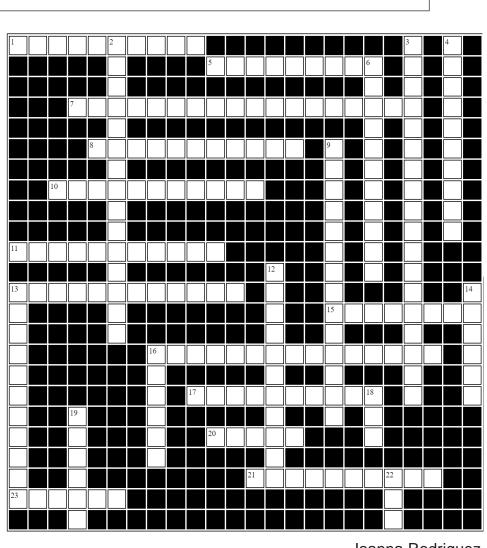
12. roentgenography of the mammary gland

13. situated between the ribs

14. gliding

- 16. a mucous membrane
- 18. no known allergies
- 19. pertaining to loins
- 22. Intravenous pyelogram

ANSWERS ON PAGE 13



Joanna Rodriguez

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OU, Norman Regional Partner for New Cancer Center



Norman Regional Health System and OU Health are partnering to bring the highest level of cancer care to Norman by building a new cancer care facility, providing the expertise and convenience of Oklahoma's only National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center, OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center, to the residents of the south metro and south central Oklahoma.

Located at the Norman Regional HealthPlex near I-35 and Tecumseh Road, the planned 50,000-squarefoot facility will be named OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center at

Norman Regional.

The state-of-art facility will combine the full spectrum of medical oncology and radiation oncology services under one roof on the newly modernized Norman Regional HealthPlex campus. It will include two advanced linear accelerators to provide the more targeted and precise radiation therapy treatment, as well as advanced diagnostic imaging services to improve detection and monitoring of treatment results. The facility is scheduled for completion in 2025.

"This is an exciting day for

Health Stephense Cancer C

our two health systems as we join together to offer high-quality, research-driven cancer care to people in Norman and from across southern OU Health Stephenson Cancer Oklahoma," said Richard Lofgren, M.D., MPH, president and CEO of OU Health. "We are pleased to welcome Norman's excellent oncologists to the OU Health team and to partner with them to provide National Cancer Institute-level care that is driven by research. This is a natural evolution for the long-

standing relationship of our health systems.

Beginning in January 2023, Center will assume operations and management of Norman Regional's existing medical oncology services at the Porter Medical Oncology Clinic. In 2025, with the opening of the new facility, Stephenson will begin providing radiation

Continued on page 12

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PARTNERSHIP Continued from Page 12

oncology services in partnership with Norman Regional. This provides patients access to a larger range of expertise.

"Norman Regional has a long history of excellence in cancer care. Partnering with Stephenson Cancer Center will elevate those services in a variety of ways and allow patients to receive convenient care closer to their homes," said Richie Splitt, president and CEO of Norman Regional Health System.

In addition to cancer treatments, patients in Norman will have access to other services offered through a National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center, including clinical trials studying drugs for many types and stages of cancer.

Phase I clinical trials, in which humans receive a drug for the first time, will continue to be offered only at Stephenson Cancer Center in Oklahoma City. However, with the opening of the new facility, patients can enroll in Phase II and III clinical trials and receive their care in Norman.

Norman Regional also will offer patients an expanded range of supportive care services through Stephenson Cancer Center. This includes counseling services specific to cancer patients, nutritional services to support the body through cancer treatment, palliative care to manage cancer-related symptoms, cancer rehabilitation to recover function, and much more.

"We are excited to extend the reach of Stephenson Cancer Center and bring these opportunities to patients in Norman and surrounding communities," said Robert Mannel, M.D., director of OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center. "This partnership represents Stephenson Cancer Center's first opportunity to begin expanding into a statewide network for the residents of Oklahoma, which is the charge that the Oklahoma Legislature has given us. Stephenson Cancer Center is the state's most comprehensive oncology practice, and we rank No. 1 among all cancer centers in the nation for the number of people participating in NCI-sponsored clinical trials. That means scientific breakthroughs are

REACH OVER 20,000 RNs & LPNs WITH A SINGLE AD ---- PRINT ---- EPUBLICATION ---- FACEBOOK ---- JOB BOARD ---- WEBSITE more readily translated into new treatment options that bring new hope to patients fighting cancer."

Norman Regional Health System is a multi-campus system that serves the healthcare needs of south central Oklahoma. It is currently comprised of two acute-care hospitals in Norman, OK. The Norman Regional Porter campus, located on Porter Avenue, is licensed for 219 beds and offers a full range of services. The Norman Regional HealthPlex campus, on Interstate 35, is licensed for 168 acute care beds. The Health System also operates two freestanding emergency room plus facilities: Norman Regional Moore, in Moore, and Norman Regional Nine in southeast Norman.



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