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## **Aspirus to Invest \$30 Million in Michigan's Upper Peninsula**

**WAUSAU, Wis.** – Aspirus Health is committing generous resources to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to meet changing regional health needs and build thriving communities. By investing in renovations and expansion, Aspirus will transform its care model to remain strong and vibrant despite a challenging health care environment.

The first element of the plan is a \$30 million renovation and expansion project at Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital in Laurium, Mich., to meet growing local needs for hospital, primary care and specialty care services. The funds will be used to:

- Update the efficiency and effectiveness of existing infrastructure.
- Redesign and remodel inpatient rooms to a larger, more comfortable private layout that supports advanced care delivery, technology and a better patient experience.
- Increase access to orthopedic care.
- Consolidate services and improve patient flow and convenience.
- Improve walk-in and same-day primary care access.

"Aspirus Health is committed to the Upper Peninsula, and to continuously transforming to meet the changing needs of its communities," said Christine Harff, Aspirus U.P. Region President. "Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and recent economic challenges, we have stayed strong through foresight, integration and rigorous continuous improvement. We are happy to be able to invest these resources in support of the people who depend on us for excellent, compassionate care."

In addition to the improvements to Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital, Aspirus will transition Aspirus Ontonagon Hospital to a rural health clinic, which will provide services that better match local needs in a community that has changed dramatically in recent years. Effective April 20, 2024, the Aspirus team in Ontonagon will provide:

- Primary care.
- Same-day access.
- Core laboratory services.
- Imaging services.
- Physical, occupational and speech therapy.
- Retail pharmacy services.
- Specialty outreach for cardiology, women's health, podiatry and diabetes care.

Hospital and emergency services will be replaced by a robust suite of outpatient-only services the community depends on. Currently Aspirus Ontonagon Hospital serves just one inpatient a day on average. Some days, there are no inpatients.

Aspirus values every one of its team members and is working directly with each employee in Ontonagon whose role will change to find a new position within the system. Human resources leaders are meeting individually with staff, offering a broad range of services and resources to support a smooth transition.

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For more health content, visit the [Aspirus Media Center](#).

**Aspirus Health** is a non-profit, community-directed health system based in Wausau, Wisconsin. Its 11,000 employees are focused on improving the health and well-being of people throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Aspirus serves communities through four hospitals in Michigan and 13 hospitals in Wisconsin, 75 clinics, home health and hospice care, pharmacies, critical care and air-medical transport, medical goods, nursing homes and a broad network of physicians. For more information, visit [aspirus.org](http://aspirus.org).