

Rush Expands Meridian Professional Center with New Oncology Suite

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Washington Healthcare News

Puyallup area residents have enjoyed the convenience of quality medical and dental care in one location since 2009. When Rush completed the design/build project that is Meridian Professional Center,

they were answering a community need for more medical and dental office space, specifically in the South Hill area. The highly visible location was strategically placed to allow for easy access to Good Samaritan Hospital. The initial contemporary three-story brick and stucco structure featured medical,

dental and professional offices, with ample parking for patients and staff. In July 2012, Rainier Hematology and Oncology opened; a warm, comfortable environment for cancer and blood disorder patients that has broadened the healthcare service offerings available in the Center and to South Sound residents.



Rainier Hematology and Oncology Reception Area

The new commercial building housing Rainier Hematology and Oncology (RHO) at 2920 South Meridian has added a 6,959 sf clinic to the Center. Mike Desmarteau, a Principal Architect with Rush Companies, says the boost to the Meridian Professional Center is substantial, enhancing the number of healthcare industry facilities in the Center. The clinic, affiliated with Northwest Medical Specialties, houses 17 infusion chairs, 11 exam rooms, triage facilities, labs and consultation areas. Desmarteau talked about the design process for the tenant improvement project, “The primary objective was for RHO to examine exactly what they needed in the space, including how much room they needed to function optimally while giving patients space as well. A good patient flow was essential, particularly with a treatment area involved, so we worked with them to determine the best positioning of each functional area.”

Using bubble diagrams, the team was able to look at the space as a whole, with sections sized according to purpose. They settled on a flow that provided a separate staff area, had patient exam rooms accessible from the patient infusion area, and made sense for staff and provider workflow movement. Desmarteau explained, “Space needed to allow patient privacy and support multiple connections that let staff work smoothly without going out into the waiting area.” As the design process unfolded and called for adjustments,

the design and construction team could readily address the changes. “Because of how Rush is structured, the client didn’t have to worry about coordinating between design and construction teams. We’re everything in one package, so we can be more flexible and responsive.” That responsiveness was essential as the RHO team had an aggressive schedule. “We bulldozed in January and they got the keys in June – it’s kind of amazing,” he acknowledged.

In the Rainier Hematology and Oncology project, the Rush team used leading edge construction practices, including advanced water and weatherproofing finishes (Exterior Insulation Finish Systems) that have proven so necessary in the Pacific Northwest’s climate. The interior designer that RHO and Rush involved brought the outside in with warm, natural finishes such as wood, stonework and smoothly curved aspects. Said Desmarteau, “The palette that the interior designer chose was very soothing, friendly colors and earth tones.” He went on to describe the open bay with bright light from skylights as well as a wall-inset “fireplace” that provides ambient, flickering light in the lobby area, complimenting the stone surrounds. Interspersed in the solid surfaces, glass tile reflects light, mimicking the daylight that pours in from skylights placed to guide sunlight into windowless staff and patient areas. Green features include automatic photocells that dim or turn off lights when the natural

light is particularly bright, saving energy dollars and use. The use of rain gardens that send storm water run off from the roof to plants and soil that function as filters prevent water waste while providing a lush natural landscape.

The Meridian Professional Center’s build-to-suit-to-lease options have provided medical, dental and professional organizations the opportunity to not only obtain space that fits their specific service needs, but also to work with a single source for the project. Rush Companies’ organizational structure has meant that design, construction and property management work easily hand in hand to address client requirements. The team approach has consistently demonstrated streamlined material selections and no-stress building modifications – making an often-painful process, painless.

As Desmarteau explained, the buildings and office suites of the Meridian Professional Center are just one example of how the design / developer / property management company has been able to give its clients and partners good value. “We’ve taken this area from raw land to finished product, then we also manage the property,” he said. For Rainier Hematology and Oncology, the result of that integrated process and teamwork has been epitomized in a beautiful clinic completed ahead of schedule.

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