

April 7, 2026

United Hospital District Launches da Vinci 5® Robotic Surgical System Introducing a New Era of Surgical Care

Blue Earth, Minnesota (April 7, 2026) — United Hospital District (UHD) is proud to announce the launch of its da Vinci 5® robotic surgical system, marking a significant advancement in surgical care for patients across southern Minnesota. The milestone represents UHD's continued commitment to providing high-quality, advanced healthcare close to home.

For generations, families throughout the region have trusted UHD to deliver compassionate care within their own community — allowing patients to heal surrounded by familiar people and places. With the arrival of the da Vinci 5 system, UHD is expanding access to advanced surgical options without requiring patients to travel far from home.

The system is now fully installed and operational following the completion of specialized training by UHD's Operating Room team and surgeons Dr. Wong and Dr. Schulz. Today, April 7, marks UHD's go-live date for its first da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgery, beginning a new chapter in surgical care for the region.

Robotic-assisted surgery enhances a surgeon's precision while maintaining full physician control throughout the procedure. Using specialized instruments and advanced visualization technology, surgeons perform procedures through small incisions designed to improve outcomes and recovery experiences for patients.

For many patients, robotic-assisted procedures may result in:

- Less post-operative pain
- Shorter hospital stays
- Smaller incisions and reduced scarring
- Faster recovery and return to daily activities



By offering robotic-assisted surgery locally, UHD allows patients to receive leading-edge care while remaining close to their families and support systems. Access to advanced procedures within the community reduces travel burdens and helps make the recovery process more comfortable and convenient.

The addition of the da Vinci 5 system reflects UHD's ongoing investment in the health and future of the communities it serves. As robotic-assisted procedures begin, UHD looks forward to expanding surgical capabilities while continuing to deliver compassionate, patient-centered care that combines trusted local providers with modern medical innovation.

About United Hospital District

United Hospital District, based in Blue Earth, MN, is an independent system of care comprised of a 25-bed acute care hospital, comprehensive outpatient services, ambulance service, and a home health/hospice care program, all supported by a 25 multi-specialty provider group with three clinic locations across two counties. UHD was recognized as a 2025 Best Hospital for Obstetrics, 2024 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, 2023 Best Small Hospital Under 25 Beds and a 2022 Top 200 Workplace in Minnesota. For more information, visit uhd.org.

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