



**WESTERN MARYLAND**  
HEALTH SYSTEM

*Caring for What Matters Most*

## **EMBARGOED Until 3-29-2019 at 12pm/et**

Contact:

Kate Donaghy, Director  
Ed DeWitt, PR and Content Specialist  
Community Relations and Marketing  
Western Maryland Health System  
Phone: 240-964-8022, 240-964-8019  
Email: [kdonaghy@wmhs.com](mailto:kdonaghy@wmhs.com), [edewitt@wmhs.com](mailto:edewitt@wmhs.com)

### **WMHS Signs Letter of Intent to Pursue Affiliation with UPMC**

*Enhanced specialties and access to advanced healthcare services in western Maryland, W.Va. and Pa.*

**Cumberland, Maryland (March 29, 2019)** – The Board of Directors of Western Maryland Health System has signed a non-binding letter of intent with UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center) to pursue an affiliation agreement that would integrate WMHS into the UPMC system. An affiliation would offer Allegany County, Maryland and the surrounding areas access to enhanced healthcare services, leverage UPMC’s clinical expertise and give the hospital system improved ability to recruit more top doctors to the area.

In February 2018, WMHS and UPMC joined together in a clinical affiliation to work cooperatively to enhance healthcare services for local residents. The current partnership enables WMHS to build upon its success in providing value-based care and to strengthen its ability to deliver quality care, transform care delivery and reduce the total cost of providing care in the community.

“This began as a clinical affiliation in early 2018, now we are collaborating on a shared vision to preserve high-quality healthcare services closer to home for local patients and their families,” said Leslie Davis, senior vice president of UPMC, and executive vice president and chief operating officer of UPMC’s Health Services Division.

UPMC is one of the nation’s largest and most successful integrated health systems. As both a provider and insurer, UPMC integrates 40 hospitals, 700 doctors’ offices and outpatient sites, and a 3.5 million-member Insurance Services Division, the largest medical insurer in western Pennsylvania. Affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences, UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside ranks on the prestigious *U.S. News & World Report* annual Honor Roll of America’s Best Hospitals.

“Western Maryland Health System is working with UPMC toward a definitive agreement to affiliate, which will allow WMHS to maintain clinical excellence in western Maryland and throughout the region for years to come,” said Barry Ronan, WMHS President and CEO. “Since we became clinically affiliated with UPMC in 2018, we have a stronger clinical and operational position allowing a broad range of nationally recognized care here locally for the people of Allegany County and surrounding counties in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.”

Throughout the next few months, both parties will engage in additional due diligence, research, and discussions to work toward a definitive agreement. While this process is subject to customary regulatory review, hospital leaders hope to complete the affiliation this year. WMHS will keep its stakeholders and community updated as there are developments to share.

### **About Western Maryland Health System**

Western Maryland Health System was formed in 1996 to strengthen the healthcare services in Western Maryland and the surrounding communities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. In November 2009, WMHS opened a new state-of-the-art hospital on Willowbrook Road in Cumberland, Maryland.

The Western Maryland Regional Medical Center has over 200 beds and offers a comprehensive range of general and specialty services for medical, surgical, and obstetrical patients. In addition to hospital-based services, WMHS has a network

of diagnostic centers, urgent care centers, physician practices, a skilled nursing facility, home care, and other outpatient specialty services.

WMHS has been at the forefront of value-based care and is continuously working to improve the overall health of the community with a variety of health initiatives, including: health screenings, classes on adopting healthy lifestyles, community education, and exercise programs. WMHS has also addressed the issue of underserved populations by opening Community Outreach Clinics that aim to help at-risk populations make more informed healthcare decisions.

As of February 2018, WMHS and UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center) joined together in a clinical affiliation to work cooperatively to enhance healthcare services for local residents. The partnership enables WMHS to build upon its success in providing value-based care and to strengthen its ability to deliver quality care, transform care delivery and reduce the total cost of providing care in the community.

To learn more about Western Maryland Health System, visit [www.wmhs.com](http://www.wmhs.com). Find us on social media at [facebook.com/westernmdhealth](https://facebook.com/westernmdhealth), [youtube.com/WMHSCumberland](https://youtube.com/WMHSCumberland), Twitter @westernmdhealth, and Instagram @westernmarylandhealthsystem.

#### **About UPMC**

A \$19 billion world-renowned health care provider and insurer, Pittsburgh-based UPMC is inventing new models of patient-centered, cost-effective, accountable care. UPMC provides more than \$900 million a year in benefits to its communities, including more care to the region's most vulnerable citizens than any other health care institution. The largest nongovernmental employer in Pennsylvania, UPMC integrates 87,000 employees, 40 hospitals, 700 doctors' offices and outpatient sites, and a 3.5 million-member Insurance Services Division, the largest medical insurer in western Pennsylvania. As UPMC works in close collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences, *U.S. News & World Report* consistently ranks UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside on its annual Honor Roll of America's Best Hospitals. UPMC Enterprises functions as the innovation and commercialization arm of UPMC, and UPMC International provides hands-on health care and management services with partners around the world. For more information, go to [UPMC.com](http://UPMC.com).

###