

## RCCH-UW Medicine Partnership

### Frequently Asked Questions

1) **Why is UW Medicine entering this partnership?**

Changes in healthcare have created new challenges for smaller community hospitals around the region. Many are seeking partnerships with larger hospitals and health systems to ensure they can continue to offer quality care to their communities. Many of these smaller hospitals do not have access to the adequate operating capital and quality improvement resources that are critical to their ongoing success.

While UW Medicine may not have additional capital or infrastructure to support hospitals, it is committed to helping them build and improve their patient safety and quality improvement programs and help influence quality of care. Creating a public-private partnership with RCCH provides UW Medicine access to a partner with proven expertise in operating community hospitals while giving us the opportunity to contribute our expertise in quality and patient safety. In addition to expanding to new communities, this new partnership will build on our existing relationships in Washington, Idaho and Alaska, and should enhance our research, teaching and clinical activities in those states. Helping hospitals improve the health of their community is part of the UW Mission to improve the health of the public.

2) **Is the partnership a separate legal entity?**

Yes, the partnership is a Limited Liability Company (LLC), formed by RCCH – Northwest LLC.

3) **What does participation in the LLC mean for UW Medicine?**

UW Medicine is a minority equity member, with seats on the LLC board as well as the LLC's quality committee. Through these roles, UW Medicine will work with the local management teams to assure high-quality care at the hospitals.

4) **Does this mean LLC or the hospitals are UW Medicine entities?**

No. The LLC and the hospitals that are owned through the partnership will be affiliates of UW Medicine, but not entities of UW Medicine. The community hospitals will continue to work with local physicians and health care professionals.

5) **Will the community hospitals have UW Medicine branding?**

Yes. The community hospitals that are owned by the LLC will retain and continue their community hospital identities but will be -branded as "A UW Medicine Community Health Partner". This brand reflects the commitment of UW Medicine to work together with the hospitals and RCCH to maintain high quality at each of the hospitals.

6) **Will UW Medicine operate the LLC's hospitals?**

No. RCCH will operate and manage each of the hospitals. UW Medicine will provide consultation and oversight on quality and patient safety. The UW Medicine brand (“A UW Medicine Community Health Partner”) reflects our involvement with and commitment to the hospital and the community.

7) **Will RCCH operate any of the UW Medicine hospitals?**

No. Our four UW Medicine hospitals will continue to be operated as they are today.

8) **RCCH is a for-profit organization. Is that inconsistent with UW Medicine’s mission?**

RCCH is committed to owning and operating community hospitals that provide high-quality compassionate care. That commitment is consistent with UW Medicine’s mission to improve the health of the public. UW Medicine negotiated safeguards in the agreement with RCCH to protect UW Medicine’s ability to pursue its independent research, education and patient care activities in the WWAMI region and to assure that the partnership’s activities are in alignment with the UW Medicine mission and reputation for quality.

9) **How does this new partnership align with UW Medicine’s teaching and research activities?**

Through its work with RCCH, UW Medicine will enhance community opportunities for medical trainees through the WWAMI program and develop ways to expand local clinician and patient participation in research opportunities.