Teton Valley Health Care and University of Utah Health Care
Sign Agreement to Improve Access to Medical Specialists

Affiliation agreement lays foundation for how the two hospitals will collaborate to ensure residents of the Teton County, ID and neighboring areas have access to specialists from one of the country's top academic medical centers.

Driggs, ID – Officials from Teton Valley Health Care have announced a new partnership with Salt Lake City-based University of Utah Health Care that will extend the resources of the region's only academic medical center to the residents of Driggs and surrounding communities in Idaho.

"Developing strategic affiliations that enhance our ability to provide the community with high quality health care is a top priority for our system," said Keith Gnagey, CEO of Teton Valley Health Care. "University of Utah Health Care has emerged as a partner that brings both breadth and depth in terms of resources and access to specialty services. They're known nationally for their commitment to accessible, high-quality, coordinated, and cost effective care – which are qualities we're looking for in a partner."

The agreement sets the stage for Teton Valley Health Care to provide enhanced access to medical specialties like adult and adolescent psychiatry, advanced heart care, stroke, trauma, and transplant services. These efforts may include expanded use of telehealth services, as well as regular clinic visits from University of Utah specialists.

"Our patients want access to medical specialties in their community and this agreement sets the foundation for enhanced access to services from the region's only academic medical center," said Dr. Chad Horrocks, Chief of Staff at Teton Valley Health Care. "The University has an excellent track record of providing services via both their secure telehealth network, as well as regular visits from specialists to this part of the state."

The agreement also offers Teton Valley Health Care the opportunity to benefit from the work the University of Utah is doing around staff development and business efficiency, according to Angela Booker, Chief Nursing Officer at Teton Valley Health Care. "Running a great hospital requires a significant commitment to training and education of staff. As a teaching hospital, the University of Utah has resources already in place to help our staff stay on top of the latest advances and best practices in medicine. The partnership will also allow us to take advantage of operating

efficiencies associated with a large, academic medical center."

University of Utah Health Care officials are optimistic the partnership will position both organizations for success in a rapidly evolving health care environment. "Inherent in our mission as a teaching hospital is our responsibility to share clinical best practices, research advances, and provide our community partners with the educational resources we've developed as a university," said Dr. Sean Mulvihill, CEO of the University of Utah Medical Group. "We want to be a resource to improve the health and well-being of residents from across the Intermountain West."

David Entwistle, CEO of University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics, says the partnership makes sense because both organizations share a commitment providing high quality care. "We recognize that no one wants to leave his or her community when they get sick. The goal of this partnership is to enhance Teton Valley Health Care's ability to serve its community high quality care and access to specialty care not currently available," he said.

Both organizations emphasize the affiliation does not change ownership, local control and governance, or restrict patient choice in providers.

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About Teton Valley Health Care

Teton Valley Health Care includes Teton Valley Hospital (a federally designated critical access hospital), the Driggs Health Clinic and Victor Health Clinic. Located on the western side of the majestic Teton Mountain Range, it serves the residents of Teton County, ID and surrounding areas. A community owned health system, Teton Valley Health Care provides excellent health care for residents and visitors, and contributes to the community in many ways. Each year the system provides discounted lab draws and vaccinations, free services and health workshops, subsidized health programs, and community event sponsorships. Read more at http://www.tvhcare.org

About University of Utah Health Care

University of Utah Health Care is the Intermountain West's only academic health care system, providing leading-edge and compassionate medicine for the people of Utah and a referral area encompassing five states and more than 10 percent of the continental United States. The health system includes four hospitals – University of Utah Hospital; the University of Utah Orthopaedic Center; University Neuropsychiatric Institute; and Huntsman Cancer Hospital – with more than 1,000 physicians offering care in more than 200 medical specialties. The system has been

ranked among the top 10 academic health systems in the country for the past four years in the University HealthSystem Consortium's rigorous Quality and Accountability Study. More at http://healthcare.utah.edu.