



## **The Health Plan and West Virginia University Health System to form new, fully integrated healthcare network**

*Goal is to deliver better outcomes through a more efficient and coordinated system of care for West Virginians*

**MORGANTOWN, W.Va.** – The West Virginia University Health System (operating under the brand [WVU Medicine](#)) and [The Health Plan](#), a managed care organization headquartered in Wheeling and operating throughout West Virginia, announced today their intent to come together to form a fully integrated healthcare delivery and financing system for the people of West Virginia.

“This new partnership and alignment is a homegrown way to care for West Virginians more effectively and efficiently,” Albert L. Wright, Jr., president and chief executive officer of the West Virginia University Health System, said. “By aligning and integrating our two organizations and by leveraging our respective expertise in a more coordinated fashion, we can deliver better outcomes to the people of West Virginia. The Health Plan will also continue to build collaborative, value-based partnerships with other health systems and independent providers in West Virginia.”

The goal of this new alignment and partnership is to improve the health of all West Virginians by providing them access to a highly coordinated and seamless system of care, one that provides the highest quality of care in the most efficient and affordable manner possible. Examples of fully integrated healthcare delivery systems include [Geisinger](#) in Danville, Pennsylvania; [Baylor Scott & White Health](#) in Dallas, Texas; and [Kaiser Permanente](#) in Oakland, California.

Through this new and fully integrated network, The Health Plan will become a member and subsidiary of the West Virginia University Health System but will continue to operate as a community-based, not-for-profit corporation. Studies have found that establishing a fully integrated network such as this can help the U.S. healthcare system achieve the triple aim of healthcare reform: providing better quality care at a lower cost while focusing on population health.

“This is the marriage of two great West Virginia brands that want to come together with the shared vision and goal of creating a healthier West Virginia,” Jim Pennington, president and chief executive officer of The Health Plan, said. “When you align and integrate both the provider and payor around specific and measurable outcomes related to health, we believe we will see significant improvements.”

The specific terms of the partnership are subject to the approval of the boards of both organizations. Prior to the final approval by the respective governing bodies, the two organizations will be engaged in an extensive due diligence process.

### **About WVU Medicine West Virginia University Health System**

The West Virginia University Health System, the state's largest health system and largest private employer, is comprised of nine hospitals – its flagship academic medical center, [West Virginia University Hospitals](#) in Morgantown; [Berkeley Medical Center](#) in Martinsburg; [Braxton County Memorial Hospital](#) in Gassaway; [Camden Clark Medical Center](#) in Parkersburg; [Jefferson Medical Center](#) in Ranson; [Potomac Valley Hospital](#) in Keyser; [Reynolds Memorial Hospital](#) in Glen Dale; [St. Joseph's Hospital](#) in Buckhannon; and [United Hospital Center](#) in Bridgeport. It also provides management services to [Summersville Regional Medical Center](#) in Summersville, [Wetzel County Hospital](#) in New Martinsville, [Jackson General Hospital](#) in Ripley, and [Garrett Regional Medical Center](#) in Oakland, Maryland. The WVU Health System also includes five institutes – the [WVU Cancer Institute](#), the [WVU Critical Care and Trauma Institute](#), the [WVU Eye Institute](#), the [WVU Heart and Vascular Institute](#), and the [WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute](#).

### **About The Health Plan**

The Health Plan ([www.healthplan.org](http://www.healthplan.org)) is a clinically driven, technology-enhanced, and customer-focused health maintenance organization that manages and improves the health and well-being of its members. Established in 1979, the West Virginia-based company, with offices in Wheeling, Charleston and Morgantown, West Virginia and Massillon, Ohio has offered a complete line of managed care products and services designed to provide health care systems and clients with innovative health care benefits and plans at a reasonable cost across the mid-Atlantic region and nationally.

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