



Union Hospital Reiterates Commitments for Merger with Terre Haute Regional Hospital

Building a healthier future together with higher quality care, better access and modernized infrastructure for all Wabash Valley residents.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Terre Haute, Ind.) – With HCA seriously considering ending services or closing Regional Hospital due to current market conditions, the health care landscape of Terre Haute could dramatically change if the merger with Union Hospital is not approved. Because of the urgency and importance of this moment, Union Hospital shared a closer look into the commitments included in its Certificate of Public Advantage (COPA) application, which was filed in connection with Union’s proposed merger with Regional Hospital. The commitments are intended to ensure the merger will benefit the community for years to come. Submitted in February, the COPA application outlines 45 total commitments—each one a step toward delivering higher-quality care, protecting cost efficiency, preserving and broadening local access, and building a healthier, more resilient future for the community. Each commitment includes an accountability mechanism so that the Indiana Department of Health may hold Union Hospital accountable for the commitments it is making as part of the merger.

“As doctors and people, we are all working toward the same goal – to provide the preventative and chronic health care that the people of this community need and deserve to improve outcomes and longevity,” said Dr. Mark Schuld, Medical Director of Union Medical Group. “The current siloed care model has not served and will not serve our community in the way it needs. Coming together will allow our community to expand access to care and offer cutting-edge treatment to those afflicted by chronic disease. It will also create an infrastructure that will enable us to improve screening and early detection. I strongly believe this merger is the right and best next step to achieve high-quality, accessible health care for all members of our community.”

The proposed merger between Union Hospital and Regional Hospital provides more than just the combination of existing resources; it provides an opportunity for growth, economic resiliency and improved outcomes for those in Wabash Valley seeking care. With the current landscape the two hospitals are facing, with both staffing and capacity needs, paired with a bold vision for a healthier, thriving future, Union Hospital has dedicated 45 commitments to achieve its proactive vision.

What These Commitments Mean for the Community

To improve health care quality, Union Hospital has committed to:

- Implement a common IT platform across the two organizations so that providers will have immediate access to patient records across the combined health system
- Invest in new tools for care coordination and population health improvement
- Publicly report on 58 quality measures for all patients
- Publicly report on 14 patient satisfaction measures for all patients

To ensure the merger maintains cost efficiency in the region, Union Hospital has committed to:

- Establish a seven-year limitation on price increases for individual services
- Negotiate in good faith and limit price increases with insurance companies
- Implement Union Hospital's chargemaster for all services provided across the combined health system which will result in an immediate reduction in costs for the community

To preserve access to local health care services, Union Hospital has committed to:

- Maintain inpatient acute care services at both facilities
- Maintain emergency rooms at both facilities
- Maintain at least a Level III trauma program and a Level III NICU at Union Hospital
- Maintain an ICU at Union Hospital and increase the number of ICU beds from 24 to 36 in the next three years
- Create an Acuity Adaptable Unit at Regional Hospital to better meet the needs of patients

To improve the overall health of the community, Union Hospital has committed to:

- Implement a comprehensive population health plan to improve the health of the community and reduce the cost of care
- Implement initiatives to eliminate health disparities and provide equitable care for all patients
- Provide regular healthcare clinics for the homeless community
- Establish a new food access point to address food insecurity

To enhance the services available in the community, Union Hospital has committed to:

- Recruit new primary care physicians with a goal of hiring at least 15 new primary care providers in the first five years
- Recruit new specialists with a goal of hiring at least 21 new specialists in the first five years
- Increase access to needed services through the addition of at least 20 new behavioral health inpatient beds in the first five years

- Invest at least \$30 million in Regional Hospital facilities and at least \$75 million in Union Hospital facilities in the first five years
- Invest at least \$5 million to add oncology treatment-related technology in the community

“The driving force behind this merger is to ensure community members receive high-quality care where it matters most—in our local community from providers and care teams they know and trust at Union Hospital and Regional Hospital,” said Steve Holman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Union Health. “Through the proposed merger and commitments we’ve made as a system to this community, we’re deepening our focus to care for our loved ones and neighbors now and for generations to come.”

For more information on Union Hospital’s commitments, visit union.health/healthier-together.

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About Union Health

Union Health is a not-for-profit health system that provides comprehensive health care to patients in west central Indiana and eastern Illinois. Serving its communities since 1892, Union Health provides care to all area residents regardless of their ability to pay. Their patient-focused philosophy emphasizes collaboration, integrity, transparency and stewardship to help patients reach better health and well-being. For more information on Union Health, visit union.health.

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Healthier, together.