



## News Media Contacts:

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**NEWS RELEASE (embargoed for release until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012)**

## **Carroll County Memorial Hospital, Norton Healthcare Announce Affiliation Agreement**

**CARROLLTON, KY. (Feb. 21, 2012):** Officials of Carroll County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) in Carrollton, Ky., and Norton Healthcare, Louisville, Ky.'s leading health care system, today announced that the two health care organizations have entered into a formal affiliation agreement, building upon the success of the previous affiliation relationship.

CCMH officials recently traveled to Louisville to sign the new agreement with Stephen A. Williams, president & CEO of Norton Healthcare. The CCMH officials included Michael Nevin, secretary and acting chair of the CCMH Corp. Board of Directors, and Kanute Rarey, CEO.

The new agreement features these key elements:

- Full access by CCMH medical providers and staff to the extensive training, education and management development services provided by Norton University. These include more than 500 free, accredited online courses in 19 distinct disciplines, including administration, clinical laboratory science, dietetics, emergency medical services, medical records, nurse aide/nursing assistant, nursing, occupational therapy, patient education, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician, physician (ethics), radiologic technology, required safety, respiratory therapy, social work, support staff, and wellness/personal enrichment. CCMH management and staff will also have access to Norton University management and leadership development classes, offered both in

Louisville and Carrollton. CCMH management will also have the opportunity to attend Norton Healthcare's management development conferences in Louisville.

- Development of new and existing clinical programs and services through extension of expertise and resources associated with Norton Healthcare's Clinical Service Lines and Centers of Excellence to help make that care more available in the communities served by CCMH. This will include the establishment of several new subspecialty clinics and clinical services.
- Better coordination of continuity of care for patients who do require specialized or tertiary care and need to seek that care outside of the communities served by CCMH. This will include resources such as enhanced use of the Norton Healthcare Access Center, which serves as a single point of resource for patients, families and physicians, to connect with physicians and services available through Norton Healthcare.
- Better position CCMH to be able to manage the inevitable but unknown changes that are rapidly coming to the health care industry under health care reform. This includes the need for rural health care organizations to align themselves with tertiary partners through affiliation agreements of this type.

In addition to the benefits of the new affiliation agreement, CMMH has been announced as one of three rural hospitals in Kentucky and Indiana to receive a grant to install telemedicine equipment. The grants, made by the Norton Healthcare Foundation, resulted from funding provided through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program. Medical carts outfitted with video conferencing equipment and peripheral devices such as digital stethoscopes will connect to specialists operating laptop control stations at Norton Healthcare's five hospitals in Louisville. The medical carts provide a way for the large hospital specialists to be at the patient's bedside for examination, consultation, referrals and prescriptions. Through the video connection, the physicians can also access the patient's medical record and document their notes in the system. With an emphasis on pulmonary, cardiology, neurology and critical care, the project plans to reduce the number of patient transfers, reduce the outmigration of patients outside of their communities, and reduce the risk of transferring critically ill patients. It will also decrease the overall cost of patient care while increasing the quality of personalized care.

“As an affiliate of Norton Healthcare, Carroll County Memorial Hospital will enjoy the best of both worlds – access to the resources of the leading health system in Louisville, while retaining local ownership and leadership in daily operations,” Rarey said. “As the beginning stages of this enhanced relationship, Norton Healthcare will help us build clinical and management excellence through access to the broad array of education and training courses available through Norton University. The agreement also provides the opportunity to work with Norton Healthcare to further develop our clinical programs and services. We are ecstatic to have achieved this new affiliation agreement.”

“We are pleased to provide residents served by Carroll County Memorial Hospital with enhanced access to continuing education programs, tertiary care and other medical services to support the hospital’s existing programs and services,” said Michael Esposito, system vice president, Business Development, and executive director, Service Line Operations for Norton Healthcare. “Providing these services to residents in Carroll, Trimble, Gallatin, Owen and Henry counties in Kentucky, is part of Norton Healthcare’s not-for-profit mission to improve the health status of the communities we serve. We are delighted to have Carroll County Memorial Hospital as an important partner in improving community health.”

### **About Carroll County Memorial Hospital**

The 25-bed Carroll County Memorial Hospital, located in Carrollton, Ky., is a critical access hospital that serves residents in Carroll, Trimble, Gallatin, Owen and Henry counties in Kentucky. The hospital, which employs more than 250 health care professionals, serves 14,000 people annually through outpatient services, 3,000 through inpatient services, 12,000 through its emergency department, and 27,000 through its physician services. More information about CCMH is available at [ccmhosp.com](http://ccmhosp.com).

### **About Norton Healthcare**

For more than 125 years, Norton Healthcare’s faith heritage has guided its mission to provide quality health care to all those it serves. Today, Norton Healthcare is the Louisville, Ky. area’s leading hospital and health care system (46 percent market share) and third largest private employer, providing care at more than 125 locations throughout Greater Louisville and Southern Indiana. The Louisville-based not-for-profit system includes five Louisville hospitals with more than 1,800 licensed beds; five outpatient centers; 12 Norton Immediate Care Centers; 11,750 employees; more than 570 employed medical providers; and in excess of 2,000 total physicians on its medical staff. Norton Healthcare was the 2011

recipient of the prestigious National Quality Forum National Quality Healthcare Award, along with the 2011 Kentucky Hospital Association Quality Award. The organization has consistently been recognized as one of the best places to work in Metro Louisville, the state of Kentucky and nationally. Norton Healthcare and Humana are one of only four national pilot sites, and the only one in Kentucky, to study the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model through the prestigious Brookings – Dartmouth ACO Pilot Project. More information about Norton Healthcare is available at [NortonHealthcare.com](http://NortonHealthcare.com).

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