

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Why Enter Into a Strategic Affiliation?

St. Peter's Health is dedicated to providing high-value, high-quality care to our community. This affiliation agreement with University of Utah Health supports that effort by streamlining coordination of care and services with a nationally ranked and regionally respected health care organization also focused on providing the highest quality of care for patients.

While St. Peter's Health maintains our independence, this agreement provides a platform to:

- Increase access to specialty care not available in our community
- Improve the process and experience for patients referred to University of Utah Health for care
- Leverage the depth of expertise at University of Utah Health for continued staff development and education
- Expand our implementation of best practices in both evidence-based care and clinical operations

## What Does the Arrangement Mean?

Affiliation with University of Utah Health supports St. Peter's Health's goal to provide high value care for our community, by ensuring access to high quality care that is also cost effective. The affiliation does not change St. Peter's Health's ownership, local control and governance, or restrict patient choice in providers.

## Why is St. Peter's Health Interested in the Affiliation?

St. Peter's Health understands that the health care industry is evolving. Many of these changes can be positive for our community. We are placing greater emphasis on improving the overall wellness of our community and ensuring that when patients receive treatment, they receive the best care in the most appropriate setting at a cost-effective price, with timely communication between health care providers. We have chosen to collaborate with University of Utah Health because of the similarities in our culture, philosophy and vision to set the gold standard. By working together, our organizations are better positioned to meet the requirements of health care reform and provide exceptional care.

## Why is University of Utah Health Interested in the Affiliation?

As a world renowned academic medical center, U of U Health believes it has a responsibility to share its resources, clinical expertise, research and educational capabilities with health care providers throughout the region. By affiliating with other quality driven organizations, U of U



St. Peter's Health

An  
Affiliate  
Of



**HEALTH**  
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Health is paving the way for a collaborative approach to improving patient care. Together, St. Peter's Health and U of U Health are committed to supporting the health of our community and providing seamless access to specialty services not offered locally.

### **How will this Benefit Patients in Greater Helena?**

St. Peter's Health will have access to the resources and clinical expertise of a top ranked academic medical center. The agreement allows St. Peter's clinicians to bring University of Utah Health specialists and sub-specialists onto the care team, which will enable us to provide more specialty care here in Helena and transport fewer patients to other health care systems.

### **Does this Preclude Either Organization from Other Affiliations?**

No, the opportunity to collaborate with other facilities remains open.

### **Will the Affiliation Restrict Services or Programs Offered by St. Peter's?**

No. St. Peter's Health will continue to determine which services and programs will be offered in Greater Helena.

### **Will Patients be Able to Choose Their Health Care Professionals?**

Yes. Patient referrals are not required between the two organizations and patients may continue to select their health care providers.

### **Will the Affiliation Change Either Organization's Mission and Values?**

No. Both organizations will continue to maintain their distinct mission and values.

### **Is there an expense to St. Peter's Health for the Affiliation?**

There are no fees associated with an Academic Affiliation agreement. Costs associated with the development of joint services, equipment and software purchases, specialized staffing (including physicians) and other programs in the future may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.