
News Release

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St. Francis in Georgia Joins Mayo Clinic Care Network

COLUMBUS, GA. — Building on its reputation for delivering high quality and compassionate care to the communities in which it serves, St. Francis in Columbus, Ga., becomes the most recent member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, representatives from Mayo Clinic and St. Francis announced today. The Mayo Clinic Care Network shares Mayo Clinic's knowledge and expertise with health care systems interested in working together to enhance the quality and delivery of health care for their patients. St. Francis is the first organization in Georgia to join the Mayo Clinic Care Network.

“St. Francis is proud to be a Mayo Clinic Care Network member,” said Robert Granger, president and CEO of St. Francis. “As part of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, our physicians will be able to reach out to Mayo Clinic specialists as they consider the care needs for their patients. This collaboration is a continuation of St. Francis' commitment of doing what is best for health care in our community and will enhance patient care for the citizens of Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley.”

St. Francis underwent a thorough evaluation process based on quality, service and operational criteria. The assessment confirmed the commitment St. Francis shares with Mayo Clinic in improving the delivery of health care. St. Francis' membership is a direct result of its culture and dedication to providing compassionate patient care.

“We are pleased to welcome St. Francis, an award-winning regional hospital that is continuously recognized for providing outstanding patient care, as a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network,” says Stephen Lange, M.D., Southeast medical director of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. “We look forward to working closely with St. Francis to help them continue to provide the highest quality of care and best possible outcomes for their patients.”

St. Francis in Georgia Joins Mayo Clinic Care Network – page 2

St. Francis physicians will be able to connect with Mayo Clinic specialists on questions of complex medical care using an electronic consulting technique called eConsults. They also will have 24/7 access to Mayo-vetted medical information and guidelines through AskMayoExpert, a Web-based resource created for physicians and other health care providers. These tools, in addition to health care consulting related to clinical and business processes, will allow staff at St. Francis to accelerate innovations in care in support of the organization's mission to continuously improve the quality of health in the community.

St. Francis employs more than 2,300 associates with more than 300 community physicians (100 employed) through the St. Francis Medical Group. The hospital opened in 1950 and is currently licensed for 376 beds.

The Mayo Clinic Care Network represents non-ownership relationships. Unlike the integration of Georgia's Satilla Regional Medical Center, which became the Mayo Clinic Health System in Waycross, St. Francis will continue to be independently owned and operated.

The primary goal of the Mayo Clinic Care Network is to help people gain the benefits of Mayo Clinic expertise close to home, ensuring that patients need to travel for care only when necessary.

The network, launched in 2011, has 22 member organizations based in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota and Wisconsin as well as Puerto Rico and Mexico.

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About St. Francis

St. Francis, a 376-bed facility, offers a full range of inpatient, outpatient and emergency room services and is the only area hospital offering open heart surgery. With more than 2,000 employees, 300 physicians and the latest technology, we strive to help you regain and maintain your health. Our overriding goal is to provide you with the best possible care. For more information, visit www.wecareforlife.com.

About Mayo Clinic

Mayo Clinic is a nonprofit worldwide leader in medical care, research and education for people from all walks of life. For more information, visit www.mayoclinic.com and www.mayoclinic.org/news.