



## **AnMed Health creates a new network for the Upstate**

AnMed Health, Cannon Memorial Hospital and Carolinas HealthCare System have agreed to affiliate creating a new health care network for the Upstate. Through this new network, AnMed Health will be able to enhance patient care services and lower costs by maximizing economies of scale. This move will also better prepare all three organizations for significant changes in the U.S. health care delivery system.

Under the new affiliation agreement, AnMed Health will assume management responsibility for Cannon's operations. Ownership of Cannon Memorial Hospital will not be transferred or changed, and Cannon's board of trustees will remain the same. At the same time, Carolinas HealthCare has formed a services and affiliation agreement with AnMed Health. Carolinas HealthCare will contribute its expertise in expanding health care services to Upstate residents, reducing patient costs through economies of scale and recruiting new physicians. AnMed Health will become the third health care organization in South Carolina to join Carolinas HealthCare's network. Roper/St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston and Wallace Thompson Hospital in Union are both Carolinas HealthCare affiliates.

William Kibler, chairman of AnMed Health's board of trustees, said the board spent many months evaluating the idea of affiliation and selecting the best partner. The process included visiting several of Carolinas HealthCare's affiliated hospitals.

"Every board and staff member at the hospitals we visited openly described the benefits their organizations gained after affiliating with Carolinas HealthCare," Kibler said.

AnMed Health has had longstanding relationships with Carolinas HealthCare and Cannon Memorial. In 2007, an independent group of pathologists affiliated with AnMed Health contracted to provide pathology services to Cannon. A year later, AnMed Health assumed management of Cannon's physician practice network. As for Carolinas HealthCare, Roger Ray, the system's chief medical officer, served as AnMed Health's chief medical officer from 1999 to 2004.

Dr. Calvin M. Snipes, chairman of the Cannon Memorial Hospital board of trustees, said Cannon's board members are excited to be associated with AnMed Health and its new network of large and recognized providers.

“These providers share a common vision to bring the best health care available to communities like Pickens as well as the entire Upstate,” Dr. Snipes said. “Small hospitals across the country are encountering difficult financial pressures, but the Cannon board is committed to preserving its local hospital for the citizens of Pickens.”

Each year, AnMed Health and Cannon have more than 23,000 patient discharges, 100,000 emergency and minor care visits and more than 500,000 outpatient visits. Their combined workforce of more than 4,000 employees is a major contributor to the Upstate economy. Currently, more than 460 physicians are members of the AnMed Health and Cannon Memorial medical staffs.

With the addition of AnMed Health and Cannon Memorial Hospital, Carolinas HealthCare’s network includes 29 hospitals in North and South Carolina and employs more than 1,750 physicians at 475 locations. Carolinas HealthCare’s facilities have more than 6,000 beds and 44,000 employees.

“We cannot predict what changes Congress will make to the present health care delivery system,” said AnMed Health CEO John Miller. “We do know, however, that by combining the range of services and expertise offered by AnMed Health and Carolinas HealthCare into one network with Cannon Memorial Hospital, it will help us address and respond to future changes and will improve patient access to quality health care.”

###

**Media Contacts:**

Garrick Chidester  
vice president of network operations  
AnMed Health  
(864) 512-1109

Gail Rosenberg, APR  
AVP, public relations  
Carolinas HealthCare System  
(704) 355-3800

Amanda Dow  
director of community relations  
Cannon Memorial Hospital  
(864) 898-1252