

Statement From Exeter Health Resources Regarding Frisbie / HCA Acquisition **February 4, 2020**

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The challenges that led Frisbie to be acquired are not unique, and in fact, are similar to the challenges faced by smaller healthcare systems both nationally and locally here in New Hampshire - including Exeter Hospital and its affiliates. That is why Exeter's proposed affiliation with Wentworth-Douglass Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital is critical to preserving the long-term sustainability of residents' access to expanded high quality, local, not-for-profit healthcare services.

While we believe thoughtful health system combinations make sense for their communities, we are also mindful that approval of Frisbie's acquisition will create a three-hospital system in the NH Seacoast under the ownership of one of the largest for-profit healthcare chains in America. It will have a profound effect on other hospitals in the area including Wentworth-Douglass Hospital and Exeter Health Resources.

We remain confident that our own affiliation can be achieved through thoughtful discussion regarding regulatory objections, so that we can ensure that there is also a sustainable not-for-profit system in the region as well. The healthcare landscape in the seacoast will look very different 10 years from now and, assuming our affiliation moves forward, we are confident that it will be much better for NH residents.

For more information on our proposed affiliation, please visit www.seacoasthealthcareinitiative.org.

ABOUT:

Exeter Health Resources consists of three operating affiliates, Exeter Hospital, Core Physicians and Rockingham Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice that together employ more than 2,300 staff members. Exeter Hospital is a not-for-profit, charitable 100 bed, community-based acute care hospital, originally opened in 1897 with just a few beds, and now provides sophisticated services such as cardiac catheterization and extensive outpatient programs in surgery, and radiation and medical oncology. Exeter Hospital was awarded the highly coveted Magnet® designation in 2015 for its excellence in nursing practices and was re-designated in April 2018. The healthcare system has been recognized for ten years by the American Hospital Association's Health Forum as a "Most Wired" organization. Core Physicians is a community-based, multi-specialty group practice affiliated with Exeter Health Resources. Over 140 physicians and other clinicians in more than 25 locations within the service area offer services in primary care, pediatrics, orthopedics, gastroenterology and many other medical and surgical specialties. Rockingham Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice is a community based non-profit home health and hospice agency that provides services throughout Rockingham County and into Strafford County.

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