



For Immediate Release

**SCL Health | St. Mary's and Memorial Regional Health
collaborate to form new health care model**

Grand Junction, CO - Memorial Regional Health (MRH) and SCL Health|St. Mary's announced today the two healthcare organizations have solidified a decades-long working relationship through a new Care Affiliate agreement. The agreement is a creative model that allows Memorial Regional Health to access the services and benefits of a larger health system, while continuing to remain independent.

"Medical teams from St. Mary's Medical Center and Memorial Regional Health have been coordinating care since there was a road between us. Our long-standing partnership is the foundation for this new Care Affiliation agreement," says Brian Davidson, MD, president of St. Mary's Medical Center.

Members from both organizations will form a new steering committee to determine the specific areas of focus. By working collaboratively, Memorial Regional Health and SCL Health | St. Mary's can help ensure that local care and local governance can be protected, while the access and quality of care can be advanced.

"Rural medical facilities are under great pressure to maintain local patient services and independent operations, in an environment of limited resources," says Andrew Daniels, CEO of Memorial Regional Health. "I reached out to St. Mary's to discuss an agreement to support those goals. This collaboration will improve care as our new steering committee works together. Our objective is to keep our patients as close to home as possible, and access the larger system services that St. Mary's can bring to the table. It's a great way for both organizations to work together on behalf of the patients." Daniels concluded.

Outreach clinics for neurology, neurosurgery, and medical oncology at MRH will continue as the steering committee considers additional areas of focus. Expanded clinical and telehealth services will be discussed. A path toward SCL Connect's version of the Epic electronic medical records (EMR) system is another promising component. Patients on the Epic system gain centrally located medical records accessible to caregivers across the nation. Epic is the one of the largest EMR systems in the United States. Access to medical records can be especially important in a medical emergency.

"Our partnership with SCL Health has been invaluable toward advancing our care coordination efforts. At the end of the day, this agreement can support better outcomes through better care coordination. That's what really matters," says Daniels.

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About Memorial Regional Health

In 1948, community members in Craig gathered together to raise awareness about the importance of having access to local healthcare. From this effort, The Memorial Hospital was built. Since the doors opened in 1950, The Memorial Hospital, now Memorial Regional Health, has served the healthcare needs of the communities of northwest Colorado and southeast Wyoming. Always focused on providing quality care close to home, Memorial Regional Health has grown to include a 25-bed hospital, 4 multi-specialty medical clinics, rehabilitation services, home health and hospice and retail pharmacy. With over 450 employees, Memorial Regional Health is one of the largest employers in the area. To learn more about Memorial Regional Health, visit memorialregionalhealth.com

About SCL Health

SCL Health is a faith-based, nonprofit healthcare organization dedicated to improving the health of the people and communities we serve, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. Founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth in 1864, our \$2.6 billion health network provides comprehensive, coordinated care through 10 hospitals, more than 100 physician clinics, and home health, hospice, mental health and safety-net services primarily in Colorado and Montana. We relentlessly focus on delivering safe, high quality, effective care to every patient, every time, everywhere. In 2017, SCL Health invested \$259 million in community benefit – 10 cents of every dollar we earn – to support health improvement in our communities. To learn more about SCL Health, and SCL Health Medical Group, visit sclhealth.org.