

NEWS RELEASE

Memorial Family of Services' Affiliation with Virginia Mason Is Official

SEATTLE – (Jan. 5, 2016) – The affiliation of Yakima-based [Memorial Family of Services](#), which includes Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, with Virginia Mason Health System became final on Jan. 1 as expected, following regulatory review.

“I am very pleased to welcome Memorial to our organization,” said Virginia Mason Chairman and CEO Gary S. Kaplan, MD. “We are partnering with a community-focused health system that shares our vision for the future of health care and our commitment to quality and safety.”

Dr. Kaplan and Memorial CEO Russ Myers, along with Jim Berg, chairman of the Memorial Board of Trustees, and James Young, chairman of the Virginia Mason Board of Directors, signed the legal document for the affiliation during a Nov. 11 ceremony in Yakima.

“We are excited about joining the Virginia Mason organization,” Myers said, “and the opportunities this will create for expanding access to high quality, affordable and patient-centered health services in our community.”

The affiliation, a historic first for both not-for-profit organizations, is a non-cash transaction. Memorial Family of Services and Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital, which is owned and operated by the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital Association, become part of Virginia Mason.

Teams from Virginia Mason and Memorial are developing plans that will guide the collaborative integration and enhancement of services over the next several months. Clinical areas designated for integration and/or enhancement first include primary care, digestive diseases, heart, cancer, neurosciences and orthopedics.

“Our management and leadership teams share a vision and commitment to work together in building a health system that is greater than the sum of its parts,” Dr. Kaplan said.

The affiliation expands Virginia Mason’s presence in Central Washington, where it has partnerships with Kittitas Valley Healthcare in Ellensburg and Confluence Health in Wenatchee for providing or supporting specific services.

About Virginia Mason

Virginia Mason, founded in 1920, is a nonprofit regional health care system based in Seattle that serves the Pacific Northwest. Virginia Mason employs approximately 6,000 people and includes a 336-bed acute-care hospital; a primary and specialty care group practice of more than 480 physicians; regional medical centers throughout the Puget Sound area; and Bailey-Boushay House, the first skilled-nursing and outpatient chronic care management program in the U.S. designed and built specifically to meet the needs of people with HIV/AIDS. Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason is internationally recognized for its breakthrough autoimmune

disease research. Using the Virginia Mason Production System management methodology, Virginia Mason is an international leader in applying lean manufacturing principles to health care delivery to eliminate waste, lower cost, and improve quality and patient safety. Virginia Mason website: www.VirginiaMason.org

To learn more about Virginia Mason, visit Facebook.com/VMcares or follow [@VirginiaMason](https://Twitter.com/VirginiaMason) on Twitter.

About Memorial Family of Services and Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital

Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital is a 226-bed, acute-care, not-for-profit, community hospital serving Central Washington's Yakima Valley. Memorial Family of Services includes primary care practices and specialty care services, including high-quality cardiac care, a continuum of cancer care, hospice care and advanced services for children with special health care needs. Visit Memorial online at www.yakimamemorial.org or on Facebook (www.facebook.com/yakimavalleymemorialhospital), Twitter ([www.twitter.com/Yakima Memorial](https://www.twitter.com/Yakima_Memorial)) or Pinterest (www.pinterest.com/yvmh). The Memorial Foundation has raised and distributed \$45 million toward innovative health care programs in the Yakima Valley (www.memfound.org).

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