

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vanderbilt University Medical Center**Williamson Medical Center and Vanderbilt Announce Affiliation Agreement**

Williamson Medical Center and Vanderbilt University Medical Center leaders today announced a strategic affiliation agreement which formalizes and broadens existing collaborative relationships between the two institutions. The affiliation agreement establishes a formal framework and creates significant opportunities for both parties to work together to broaden the scope of health care services within Williamson County.

“Amid changes in health care on a national scale, Williamson Medical Center is excited to more formally align itself with Vanderbilt,” said Dennis Miller, F.A.C.H.E., F.H.F.M.A., Williamson Medical Center’s chief executive officer. “The community will surely benefit as we work side by side with Vanderbilt to fulfill WMC’s mission to meet the health care needs of the communities we serve.”

“Both WMC and Vanderbilt have made large financial investments in Williamson County during the last decade to improve access, quality and excellence. Aligning with one another is the natural next step in continuing to provide high quality, patient-focused care in Williamson County.”

— **Dennis Miller, Williamson Medical Center CEO**

This affiliation puts into place the immediate ability for WMC and VUMC to form jointly-operated programs.

“We consider Williamson Medical Center to be a strong and natural partner in our efforts to continue to serve this patient population,” said C. Wright Pinson, MBA, M.D., deputy vice chancellor for Health Affairs and CEO of the Vanderbilt Health System. “We are pleased with the opportunity to formalize our collaborative relationship with colleagues at WMC. We believe the citizens of Williamson County and both medical centers will benefit from an enhanced level of integrated care, ultimately making a significant contribution to health care delivery in the community.”

Each party can continue to pursue individual initiatives, but the agreement provides the necessary structure for WMC and VUMC to form collaborations that will create more efficient, cost-effective patient care through the creation of new programs and services, and through the ability to eliminate overlapping and competing projects. The affiliation does not exclude or impact physicians credentialed at WMC who do not work for Vanderbilt.

“While this agreement is focused on the joint creation of programs with our colleagues at Williamson Medical Center, we are appreciative of the opportunity for Vanderbilt to continue to strengthen our relationships with the physicians providing outstanding health care within Williamson County,” Pinson said.

The affiliation agreement immediately creates the pathway for the two institutions to formally collaborate and form joint partnerships within a broad base of services including: cancer care, primary care, diagnostic imaging services, outpatient ambulatory surgery, outpatient physician practices and medical office building development.

“Major developments are occurring rapidly within the delivery of health care as the result of the advancement of medical science and due to changes to federal and state health policy. These policy changes are placing increasing importance on the creation of innovative models to more efficiently and effectively coordinate the delivery of health care across broad populations,” said Jeff Balser, M.D., Ph.D., vice chancellor for Health Affairs and dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. “This affiliation is a tremendous positive for both parties, serving as a forward-thinking approach to partnerships between community-based providers and large tertiary referral centers as we work together to address changes occurring under health care reform.”

Vanderbilt already has a significant presence within Williamson County, currently operating more than 20 specialty outpatient clinics at 17 locations within the county’s borders. Williamson Medical Center has long been the choice for residents in Williamson County and surrounding areas, with more than 550 credentialed physicians representing 53 specialties and sub-specialties.

“Both WMC and Vanderbilt have made large financial investments in Williamson County during the last decade to improve access, quality and excellence,” Miller said. “Aligning with one another is the natural next step in continuing to provide high quality, patient-focused care in Williamson County.”

Williamson Medical Center is a 185-bed hospital fully accredited by The Joint Commission. Providing comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care including EMS, the community-focused hospital also offers a wide range of wellness services, screenings and classes. Specialty services include obstetrics & gynecology, neonatal intensive

care, cancer, orthopaedic and surgical specialties, breast health, cardiac services, diagnostic imaging, diabetes and sleep disorders, among others.

“Out of Williamson Medical Center’s strategic planning process, we recognized the need to formalize alliances with other health care providers,” said Russell Little, chairman of WMC’s Board of Trustees. “This partnership will ultimately strengthen our ability to continue to provide high-caliber health care to the communities we serve for many years to come.”

With 225 providers and more than 500 staff already providing a wide array of health care services, Vanderbilt’s Williamson County clinics and outpatient surgery facilities experience more than 350,000 patient visits each year. Last year, Vanderbilt purchased 22 acres of land at the corner of McEwen Drive and Carothers Parkway with future plans to construct a central campus that will consolidate already existing specialty outpatient clinic and outpatient surgical services.

The two institutions share a longstanding partnership with Vanderbilt’s Williamson County physicians referring their patients to Williamson Medical Center for surgical procedures and other inpatient services. For more information about Williamson Medical Center, visit www.williamsonmedicalcenter.org, or for more information about Vanderbilt University Medical Center, visit www.vanderbilthealth.org.

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