

# Frequently Asked Questions

## St. Elizabeth Healthcare & the Mayo Clinic Care Network

**Q:** *What is the Mayo Clinic Care Network?*

**A:** The Mayo Clinic Care Network is a unique collaboration with Mayo Clinic that connects St. Elizabeth Healthcare, our physicians and Mayo Clinic specialists. St. Elizabeth Healthcare providers will use electronic care reference and communication tools to access the latest Mayo Clinic knowledge and expertise.

**Q:** *Why did Mayo Clinic create the Mayo Clinic Care Network?*

**A:** Collaborating with other medical providers to provide the best possible care for patients has always been part of Mayo Clinic's culture. The Mayo Clinic Care Network helps Mayo and community care organizations work closer together — in new ways — to enhance the lives of patients.

**Q:** *Why did Mayo Clinic choose St. Elizabeth Healthcare for participation in the Mayo Clinic Care Network?*

**A:** St. Elizabeth Healthcare was selected to join the Mayo Clinic Care Network because St. Elizabeth Healthcare shares a common philosophy, commitment and mission to improve the delivery of healthcare through high-quality, data-driven, proven medical care and treatment approaches. In addition, St. Elizabeth Healthcare had to pass Mayo Clinic's rigorous review process based on quality, service and operational criteria.

**Q:** *Why is St. Elizabeth Healthcare collaborating with Mayo Clinic?*

**A:** St. Elizabeth Healthcare has always been focused on delivering the highest quality of care to the communities we serve. We continually seek ways to innovate and bring the best healthcare resources to our patients. Our collaboration with Mayo allows us to connect our outstanding physicians with the experts at Mayo, so that they can work together on solving our patient's hard to solve medical problems.

**Q:** *What does this formal collaboration mean for patients?*

**A:** St. Elizabeth Healthcare and our physicians will have access to the latest Mayo Clinic expertise to use when treating our patients. These resources include:

- AskMayoExpert, a state-of-the-art online tool created and used by Mayo Clinic. AskMayoExpert makes Mayo knowledge and expertise available at the point of care, and covers disease management, clinical care guidelines, treatment recommendations and reference materials for a variety of medical conditions.
- eConsults that serve to connect St. Elizabeth Healthcare and our physicians with Mayo Clinic experts when our physicians want additional input regarding a patient's care.

**Q:** *Does this mean that St. Elizabeth Healthcare has been purchased by Mayo Clinic?*

**A:** No. This agreement is not an acquisition or merger. Mayo Clinic Care Network members like St. Elizabeth Healthcare remain independent, community-owned healthcare providers.

**Q:** *What other health systems are members of the Mayo Clinic Care Network?*

**A:** St. Elizabeth Healthcare joins Dartmouth-Hitchcock in Lebanon, NH; NorthShore University HealthSystem in Chicago, IL; Heartland Health System in Kansas City, MO; Arizona State University in Phoenix, AZ and Kingman Regional Medical Center in Kingman, AZ; Altru Health System Grand Forks, NC; St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck, ND; NCH in Naples, FL; and Sparrow in Lansing, MI, in the Mayo Clinic Care Network.

**Q:** *Will this agreement mean patients will automatically be referred to Mayo Clinic?*

**A:** No, there is no obligation for referrals to Mayo Clinic. The primary goal of St. Elizabeth Healthcare and Mayo Clinic through the Mayo Clinic Care Network is to help patients gain the benefits of Mayo Clinic expertise while continuing to receive their care as close to home as possible, ensuring they travel outside the region for care only when necessary. In cases where a patient is referred to Mayo, we will be able to provide care coordination support to facilitate registration at the Mayo Clinic.