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Lutheran Health Network Joins Encore

Effective immediately, the entire Lutheran Health Network (LHN), an integrated healthcare delivery system serving northeastern Indiana and northwestern Ohio, will be participating in the Encore Health Network. LHN consists of eight hospitals, one affiliate hospital and urgent care centers. Collectively, LHN has 968 beds and more than 6,000 associates.

“We are absolutely delighted to have the Lutheran Health Network join Encore,” says Kathy O’Farrell, Encore’s assistant vice president – marketing and product development. “LHN’s medical facilities are renowned for their progressive healthcare services and long-time commitment to the people of northeastern Indiana. LHN’s full participation in the Encore Health Network gives our members even greater access to top quality healthcare providers from which to choose.”

Lutheran Health Network is based in Fort Wayne. The network’s medical facilities serving the Fort Wayne metropolitan area and new participants in Encore include: Lutheran Hospital of Indiana, Lutheran Children’s Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, Dupont Hospital and the Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne. LHN facilities continuing to participate in the Encore network are: Bluffton Regional Medical Center, Bluffton; Dukes Memorial Hospital, Peru; Kosciusko Community Hospital, Warsaw; RediMed Urgent Care Centers; and LHN affiliate Community Memorial Hospital, Hicksville, Ohio.

LHN’s flagship hospital is Lutheran Hospital of Indiana, which celebrated its centennial in 2004. The 370-bed hospital features the region’s only heart transplant facility, earning national and worldwide recognition. In 2004, the seventh annual *HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study*, an independent national report analyzing nearly 5,000 hospitals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, rated Lutheran Hospital number one in Indiana for overall cardiac care services. The just-released third annual *HealthGrades Hospital Quality and Clinical Excellence Study* ranks Lutheran Hospital among the top 5 percent of hospitals nationally for clinical excellence.

“We are pleased that a network of Encore’s stature has chosen to include the eight LHN hospitals in its provider panel,” says Mike Schatzlein, LHN’s chief operating officer. “Encore’s recognition of our commitment to quality cost-effective healthcare will benefit its members in northeastern Indiana.”

Encore’s growing network provides comprehensive coverage and choice throughout northeastern Indiana with the hospitals of the Lutheran Health Network and the Parkview Health System. To learn more about Encore’s new partner in healthcare in northeastern Indiana, contact Kathy O’Farrell at (317) 705-3125 or kofarrell@thcg.org.

Encore Health Network is one of the largest Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) in Indiana and serves areas in Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan. Currently, 650,000 members receive their healthcare in Encore’s growing network. Network participants include more than 16,000 physicians and 165 hospitals. Encore is locally owned by The Healthcare Group LLC, one of Indiana’s largest managed care organizations. Ownership includes Clarian Health (Methodist, IU and Riley hospitals), Community Hospitals of Indianapolis and Anderson, and Deaconess Hospital (Evansville).