Ingalls’ Merger with the University of Chicago Medical Center: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Ingalls Health System’s relationship to the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC)?
A: Ingalls is now part of the University of Chicago Medicine brand, which comprises the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC), Biological Sciences Division and Pritzker School of Medicine. The merger will combine assets of both institutions, and the University of Chicago Medical Center becomes Ingalls’ corporate parent.

Ingalls Health System and Ingalls Memorial Hospital will remain separate corporations, and the hospital will retain its own operating license. Ingalls also will maintain a local board of directors and have representation on the UCMC Board and will remain under the direction of President and CEO Kurt E. Johnson.

Q: Why did Ingalls and UCMC decide to explore a merger?
A: Both were seeking a partner that would complement and enhance health care for patients throughout Chicago’s South Side and the Southland region and strengthen their respective organizations. They found that they share numerous core values including:
- Dedication to their respective communities
- Commitment to patient care, outcomes, safety and experience
- Desire to provide patients and communities greater care options, easier access and increased convenience

As a result, in November 2015, the University of Chicago Medical Center signed a letter of intent to pursue a combined integrated health delivery system. On Sept. 13, 2016, the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approved UCMC’s change of ownership request for Ingalls, followed closely by the Federal Trade Commission’s review. The proposed merger officially closed Sept. 30, 2016, upon approval of both medical center boards.

Q: What are benefits of the merger?
A: The merger creates an integrated health system focused on access, quality and service between two organizations with complementary strengths:
- Academic and community medicine is a powerful combination. The University of Chicago Medical Center has expertise in complex care and research; Ingalls Health System has expertise in high-quality care in the community hospital setting.
- Patients will have increased access to a spectrum of care and research studies such as clinical trials, as well as greater choice in doctors and locations.
- UCMC and Ingalls will join forces to provide the highest quality of care to patients, to more effectively coordinate care, to manage population health in their communities and to improve health outcomes.

Q: How does this affect patients?
A: Patients will have increased access to a spectrum of care and research studies such as clinical trials, as well as greater choice in doctors and locations. The integration will take time, during which UCMC and Ingalls will be working to enhance access across the spectrum of care. This will include ensuring seamless medical care and transfers of patients across UCMC and Ingalls. In the meantime:
- There will be no interruption in patient care. Patients can continue to see the same doctor they’ve been seeing.
- There is no immediate change to the insurance plans accepted by UCMC or Ingalls. If that changes in the future, patients will be notified.

Q: Will there be layoffs?
A: There are no plans to consolidate services or reduce staff at either organization.
Q: How long will the integration process take, and how soon can patients move between Ingalls and UCMC?
A: With the merger approved, a joint planning process to work through such will begin. The integration will take some time, during which we will be working to enhance access across the spectrum of care. This will include ensuring seamless medical care and transfers of patients across UCMC and Ingalls. Information will be shared with our faculty, staff, students and patients in the coming weeks.

Q: What’s next?
A: Leaders from the University of Chicago Medical Center and Ingalls will begin an integrated joint-planning process. Planning will be collaborative and broad-based, with input from a variety of stakeholders, in order to review ways to effectively serve patients and local communities, including:
   o Recruiting physicians to practice at Ingalls
   o Strengthening Ingalls’ ambulatory practices
   o Developing specialty care programs at Ingalls
   o Identifying additional programs that will benefit their collective communities

Q: Have you worked out any details of the merger?
A: Detailed planning was not allowed during the regulatory process. Now that the transaction has been reviewed and approved, we will begin an integrated joint-planning process.

Q: How will you plan this integration?
A: University of Chicago Medical Center President Sharon O’Keefe and Ingalls Health System CEO Kurt Johnson will co-chair an integration committee, whose responsibilities will include identifying and implementing opportunities for shared services across the enterprise. We also will set up a strategic planning committee with leadership from both hospitals, with responsibility to find better ways to deliver care to our collective patients and communities.

Q: What effect will the merger have on charity care?
A: Ingalls and UCMC share numerous core values, including a commitment to health outcomes and dedication to the communities they serve. Charity care will continue at both institutions.

Q: What are the financial terms?
A: There is no money being exchanged between the parties as part of the merger. The transaction will combine assets of both institutions to create a hospital system that is stronger than each institution is individually.

Q: Who made this decision?
A: The decision was made by the Boards of Directors at both Ingalls and the University of Chicago Medical Center. In addition, physicians and members of the executive team actively participated in the decision process.

Q: Will names be changed?
A: Both Ingalls Health System and the University of Chicago Medical Center will retain their names. However, the new relationship will be reflected at their respective campuses and in the marketplace.

Q: What will happen with the medical residency programs?
A: UCMC will support and maintain Ingalls’ current residency training program. Upon completion of their training, residents at UCMC will have opportunities to join the medical staff at Ingalls, thereby supporting the recruitment and retention of physicians in the community.

Q: What if I have questions or concerns?
A: Here are some resources:
   o uchospitals.edu
   o ingalls.org
   o UChicago Medicine’s Call Center, 1-888-824-0200