

Essentia Health to Join Sanford Health Plan NDPERS Provider Network

FARGO, N.D. – Sanford Health Plan and Essentia Health announced today they have reached an agreement for Essentia to join the NDPERS PPO Network, effective July 1, 2015.

The agreement allows Essentia to continue to provide in-network health services for 65,000 health plan members of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS). This contract adds 1,500 Essentia Health providers to the network. Sanford Health Plan already has a broad regional network of 18,000 providers including independent practice and those affiliated with other health systems.

“We were committed to work through an agreement that ensures Essentia Health will be able to provide quality care at the highest level of benefits for the many state employees and their dependents we serve,” said Tim Saylor Chief Operating Officer of Essentia Health’s West Region.

On Feb. 19 NDPERS announced Sanford Health Plan was selected as the insurance provider for its members beginning July 1. The decision will add 29,000 contracts covering 65,000 covered lives to Sanford Health Plan.

About Essentia Health

Essentia Health is an integrated health system serving patients in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Idaho. Essentia Health combines the strengths and talents of 12,800 employees, including 1,500 physicians and credentialed practitioners, whose mission is to provide high quality care while making patients feel known and understood. In 2013, Essentia was accredited as an Accountable Care Organization by the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

Guided by the values of quality, hospitality, respect, justice, stewardship and teamwork, Essentia Health delivers on its promise to be “*Here With You*” in 17 hospitals, 66 clinics, eight long-term care facilities, two assisted living facilities, five independent living facilities, five ambulance services and one research institute. For more information, visit essentiahealth.org.

About Sanford Health Plan

[Sanford Health Plan](#) is a community-based, non-profit health insurance organization that was started in 1998 by Sanford Health. The health plan offers product lines for individuals, families and business in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa.

Sanford Health Plan’s network of 18,000 providers includes Sanford Health practitioners and providers, as well as those affiliated with other systems and in independent practice, in addition to a nationwide network for members living or traveling outside of the service area. While Sanford Health Plan’s corporate offices are located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, its sales team includes more than 1,000 community agents across the Midwest.

About Sanford Health

[Sanford Health](#) is an integrated health system headquartered in the Dakotas and is now the largest, rural, not-for-profit health care system in the nation with locations in 300 communities in nine states and three countries.