Frequently asked questions

You have questions about the proposed NHRMC, Novant Health, UNC Health partnership. This FAQ is designed to help answer the most common questions we know you, your friends and your family are asking.

What is in place to ensure that NHRMC retains local control?
Novant Health is committed to preserving NHRMC’s separate corporate existence and providing the local community with significant influence through a true fiduciary board of trustees. We are prepared to:

- Provide NHRMC with up to two seats on the Novant Health parent board.
- Keep the local NHRMC board in place, which keeps a number of functions in local control.
- Leave policies and procedures with regard to medical staff governance in the purview of the NHRMC board.

Additionally, Novant Health envisions NHRMC as the flagship facility and leader of a regionally-focused, integrated delivery network in southeastern North Carolina. This locally governed delivery network will be led by NHRMC and include the assets and operations of Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center and Pender Memorial Hospital.

Can Novant Health afford this partnership?
Yes. Novant Health provided financial projections to the PAG and to NHRMC. The projections have been reviewed by the NHRMC management and by Ponder & Co, the PAG’s financial advisor. They both agree the projections are reasonable and indicate Novant Health can afford the deal. Novant Health is in the process of summarizing these very detailed projections.

If the proposed partnership is approved, will Novant Health work with local physicians as NHRMC does today?
Yes. Novant Health is committed to the physician-administrative partnership. It is a cornerstone of our organization. Novant Health recognizes and respects that NHRMC maintains many valued, collaborative relationships with independent physicians and medical groups in the region. We support these existing relationships, are firmly committed to maintaining them going forward, and envision an expanded, regional delivery network open and available to community-based physicians.

How will pediatric care be addresses in this area?
The Betty H. Cameron Women and Children’s Hospital has set a lasting foundation for a commitment to pediatrics. Novant Heath is committed to continuing and expanding pediatric care in the market. In addition, we will leverage the UNC Health expertise in pediatrics to help recruit on-site faculty to provide clinical pediatric specialties such as cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, genetics, hematology/oncology, neurology, pulmonology, allergy/immunology, developmental & behavioral, and mental health.
What will happen to healthcare costs as a result of this partnership?
Novant Health is committed to expanding affordable, convenient care in the area, including:
- Opportunities to deliver affordably priced under-65 individual and family plan offerings to complement our ongoing Medicare Advantage efforts
- Current NHRMC network platforms for value-based care

How committed is Novant Health to health equity?
Novant Health is focused on achieving health equity by identifying and addressing health disparities across the continuum of care, from inpatient to outpatient. Our commitment to health equity, which has received regional and national recognition, is fueled by our mission and core values, one of which is diversity and inclusion. We have demonstrated this commitment to health equity in many ways:
- We will increase NHRMC’s charity care program from 200% to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- We will increase the intellectual and financial capital devoted to social determinants of health and is actively pursuing partnerships with a range of community organizations in order to aggregate and align resources to promote whole person health. Notable areas of focus include housing and food insecurity.
- Created a systemwide Health Equity Council (HEC) that will be inclusive of leaders from NHRMC to identify healthcare disparities in the community.
- Established COVID-19 screening centers and respiratory assessment centers in communities.

How will this partnership impact jobs at New Hanover Regional Medical Center?
The proposed partnership will not negatively affect NHRMC employment levels. Job growth will be a priority and we commit to significantly increasing the number of Novant Health jobs located in New Hanover County. It is our expectation and strong preference that the NHRMC senior leadership team remain in place and continue to function in their current capacities, albeit with increased responsibility and oversight for an expanded regional network, including NHBMC.