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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PENNANT HEALTH ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES TWO NEW MEMBERS

Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 1, 2012 – Pennant Health Alliance announced today that Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids and Carson City Hospital in Carson City will join the Alliance.

Pennant Health Alliance is a collaborative that allows health care organizations to share best practices and work together in several areas, including physician recruitment and alignment, health information technology, group purchasing and revenue management. The Alliance was founded by Metro Health, Trinity Health West Michigan (known as Mercy Health), and University of Michigan Health System, and is designed to strengthen community hospitals and physician practices.

“We firmly believe that the best health care starts local and stays local,” said Mike Faas, president and CEO of Metro Health Hospital and CEO of Pennant. “Pennant Health Alliance offers significant operational, quality and financial benefits without the loss of control or ownership.”

The Alliance offers services to members in key areas, including:

- Health information technology to facilitate the often costly transition to electronic medical records.
- Group purchasing that will allow independent hospitals to benefit from greater purchasing power.
- Consultation to improve coding, billing and collection for patient services.

Other customized services, such as quality consulting and performance reporting, are available on an as-requested basis.

“We are pleased to join Pennant, which offers independent hospitals like Mary Free Bed the opportunity to benefit from collaborating with other healthcare organizations in our region,” said Kent Riddle, CEO of Mary Free Bed. “As we look toward the impact of health care reform legislation, partnerships such as Pennant will become increasingly vital – not only to us, but to our entire region.”

Carson City Hospital President and CEO Matthew J. Thompson commented: “Our partnership with Pennant will provide us with a competitive advantage and better prepare us for new health reform challenges. As a rural community hospital, our goal is to keep care local and continue to provide our patients comprehensive care close to home.”

Chief Operating Officer of Pennant Health Mary Boyd said: “The partnership between Carson City Hospital and Pennant will not only benefit the hospital, but will provide Pennant Health with more input from the rural, independent hospital market for the future business endeavors of Pennant. It’s a win-win. Carson City Hospital will have access to our deep resources and we will have insight into the rural hospital market. The addition of Mary Free Bed expands our continuum into patient rehabilitation services and makes the Alliance stronger.”

Amid national health care reform and the region’s aging population, Pennant Health Alliance works to increase patient access to local primary and specialty care, while helping to improve the quality of health care and reduce operating and technology costs for hospitals and physician practices.

The Alliance tackles a national issue, highlighted on the cover of the January 2012 edition of *Hospitals and Health Networks*. Under a title of “Collaboration Equals Independence,” the article states that “Aligning with the right partners is key for hospitals that want to avoid a merger or acquisition.”

The deep resources of the founding organizations, with unmatched skill and scale, can be leveraged to deliver services. Pennant is backed by the substantial resources and community hospital operations knowledge of Trinity Health, the nation’s 10th largest health system, the University of Michigan Health System, whose specialty clinical programs are routinely recognized among the nation’s best, and Metro Health, a regional health care organization that is routinely recognized for its outstanding care and service.

Hospitals and physician practices can join Pennant Health Alliance through a support services agreement. Services may be purchased through a fee-for-service arrangement or through joint ventures and other contractual arrangements with Pennant.

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About Carson City Hospital

The mission of Carson City Hospital is to provide high quality and accessible health care services to the communities we serve. Carson City Hospital and its 10 family-practice affiliates make up the Carson Health Network, which is committed to improving the health and wellness of the community. Carson City Hospital is a 77-bed acute-care hospital affiliated with the Sparrow Health System. Located in central Michigan, the Carson Health Network serves the communities of Clinton, Gratiot, Ionia and Montcalm counties. Its affiliated physician offices are located in Ashley, Carson City, Greenville, Fowler, Ithaca, Lyons, Maple Rapids and Stanton.

In addition to acute hospital care, Carson City Hospital provides a variety of advanced services, ranging from an intensive care unit to a behavioral health unit and multiple outpatient services, and 24-hour Emergency Department care. Learn more online at www.carsoncityhospital.com.

About Mary Free Bed

Founded more than 100 years ago, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital is an 80-bed, not-for-profit, acute rehabilitation center. Its mission is to restore hope and freedom through rehabilitation to people with disabilities. Mary Free Bed offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation for children and adults using an interdisciplinary approach. In 2011, the organization launched the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Network, an innovative alliance of hospitals and providers designed to provide rehabilitation care for patients and families throughout Michigan. For more information, please visit www.maryfreebed.com, or call 800.528.8989.

About Metro Health

Metro Health is an integrated healthcare system offering expert, award-winning care. It includes Metro Health Hospital, a 208-bed general acute-care osteopathic teaching hospital located in Wyoming, Michigan, 12 neighborhood physician offices located throughout West Michigan, nationally-recognized heart and vascular services, a wide range of award-winning inpatient and outpatient specialty services, a cancer center developed in partnership with the University of Michigan department of radiation oncology, a wellness and community education program, plus joint ventures with other healthcare providers, and a medical education program. For more information, visit www.metrohealth.net.

About Trinity Health

Trinity Health is among the largest Catholic health care systems in the country. Based in Novi, Mich., Trinity Health operates 47 acute-care hospitals, 401 outpatient facilities, 31 long-term care facilities, and numerous home health offices and hospice programs in 10 states. Employing more than 53,000 full-time staff, Trinity Health reports about \$9.0 billion in unrestricted revenue. As a not-for-profit health system, Trinity Health reinvests its profits back into the community through programs to serve the poor and uninsured, manage chronic conditions like diabetes, health education and promotion initiatives, and outreach for the elderly. In fiscal 2011, this included more than \$454 million in such community benefits. For more information about Trinity Health, visit www.trinity-health.org, follow @TrinityHealthMI on Twitter, or become a fan of the Trinity Health Facebook page at www.facebook.com/trinityhealth.

Mercy Health is a collaborative partnership between two Trinity Health hospitals, Mercy Health Partners in Muskegon and Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids. Together, the two organizations provide coordinated care in 19 counties throughout west Michigan. Mercy Health offers a network of more than 1100 primary care physicians in 58 offices, in addition to specialized care in oncology, cardiology, and neurology. www.mercyhealth.com

About University of Michigan Health System

The University of Michigan Health System includes the U-M Hospitals & Health Centers, which comprises three hospitals and dozens of outpatient health centers and clinics; the U-M Medical School with its Faculty Group Practice and extensive research and education programs; the clinical operations of the U-M School of Nursing; and the Michigan Health Corp. UMHC has been recognized numerous times on a national level for excellence and quality in patient care across a broad range of adult and pediatric specialties. The U-M Medical School is one of the nation's biomedical research powerhouses, with total research funding of more than \$420 million, and consistently achieves high rankings for excellence in the education and training of physicians and biomedical scientists. For more on UMHS, see www.med.umich.edu.

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