

Penn State Health and Andrews Patel Hematology/Oncology Reach Agreement

HERSHEY, Pa. – [Penn State Health](#) and [Andrews Patel Hematology/Oncology](#) announced today they have reached agreement to join together to provide unmatched, patient-focused oncology and hematology services to central Pennsylvania and the surrounding region. The agreement received Penn State Health Board of Directors approval in early May, and the Andrews Patel Board of Directors approved the agreement terms last week. The provider group is set to join Penn State Health’s growing community-based network later this year.

Andrews Patel is the region’s premier provider of high-quality, compassionate oncology and hematology services in a community setting. The group operates two outpatient practice sites in Harrisburg and Camp Hill and also currently provides inpatient cancer services at several local hospitals.

“Caring for patients is our mission at Andrews Patel. When faced with any decision, we let the following question guide us: What is best for the patient?” said Dr. Kathryn Peroutka, president, Andrews Patel. “When facing cancer, people want to know they have access to everything they need close to home. We’re excited to become part of a local network with Penn State Health because it will offer patients a full spectrum of services, including access to clinical trials, without leaving the region for care.”

Penn State Cancer Institute specialists, based at the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, treat every type of cancer and have managed hundreds of clinical trials locally, keeping patients close to home instead of requiring travel to big cities for advanced care options.

Andrews Patel is the only participant in the Capital Region of the [Oncology Care Model program](#) through the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation. The Oncology Care Model is a national pilot program designed to improve the quality of cancer treatment by reconstructing the process of care delivery and further enhancing patient-physician relationships.

Inclusion of Andrews and Patel into Penn State Health will allow for the building of innovative and exciting new clinical cancer care models to improve outcomes for people with cancer in the greater Harrisburg-Hershey area and beyond. These models will take advantage of the complementary strengths of the Andrews Patel group and Penn State Cancer Institute, with the shared goal of meeting the challenges of cancer care in the 21st century. This includes application of personalized medicine, genomic differences of patients and their cancers and advancements in population health to the convenient, patient-centric delivery of care close to home.

In addition to Penn State Cancer Institute in Hershey, the Penn State Health cancer network now stretches across six counties in the central part of the commonwealth and includes

- Penn State Health St. Joseph Cancer Center in Berks County
- Penn State Health Medical Group – Lancaster Hematology Oncology in Lancaster County
- Cancer Care Partnership, a joint venture with Mt. Nittany Medical Center in Centre County
- Andrews Patel Hematology/Oncology in Dauphin and Cumberland counties.

“Penn State Health and Andrews Patel share a vision for providing the most cutting edge cancer care, from diagnosis, treatment and survivorship to the eventual eradication of this disease through prevention and cure,” said Dr. Craig Hillemeier, dean of Penn State College of Medicine, CEO of Penn State Health, and senior vice president for health affairs at Penn State. “This partnership advances that vision by pairing the only locally based, research-driven cancer program with the region’s leader in community-based cancer practice—delivering the best of both worlds to those we serve.”

The agreement paves the way for Andrews Patel’s nearly 90 employees, including 10 physicians, to become Penn State Health employees as soon as September 1.

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About Penn State Health

Penn State Health is a multi-hospital health system serving patients and communities across 29 counties in central Pennsylvania. It employs more than 13,000 people system-wide. The system includes [Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center](#), [Penn State Children’s Hospital](#), and [Penn State Cancer Institute](#) based in Hershey, Pa.; Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading, Pa.; and more than 1,400 physicians and direct care providers at 119 medical office locations. Additionally, the system jointly operates various health care providers, including [Penn State Health Rehabilitation Hospital](#), Hershey Outpatient Surgery Center, Hershey Endoscopy Center, Horizon Home Healthcare and [Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute](#). In December 2017, Penn State Health partnered with Highmark Health to facilitate creation of a value-based, community care network in the region. Penn State Health shares an integrated strategic plan and operations with [Penn State College of Medicine](#), the University’s medical school. With campuses in State College and Hershey, Pa., the College of Medicine boasts a portfolio of more than \$100 million in funded research and more than 1,700 students and trainees in medicine, nursing, other health professions and biomedical research.

[Penn State Cancer Institute](#) is a comprehensive cancer center committed to fighting the disease on every front, through education and prevention, early detection and diagnosis, clinical trials, effective treatment and survivorship programs. Since 2009, the Cancer Institute has served as the hub for nearly 160 clinicians, researchers and faculty members based in Hershey and State College, Pa. The Cancer Institute care teams have expertise in nearly all cancer types and offer hope and healing to nearly 2,000 individuals each year.