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August 10, 2009 | Richard Pizzi, Editor

*AnMed Health Rehabilitation Hospital, now affiliated with Carolinas HealthCare*

CHARLOTTE, NC – AnMed Health, a three-hospital system based in Anderson, S.C., and Cannon Memorial Hospital, based in Pickens, S.C., have signed an affiliation agreement with the Carolinas HealthCare System.

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The addition of the four hospitals will bring the total number of hospitals affiliated with Carolinas HealthCare to 29, in North and South Carolina.

The health system employs more than 1,750 physicians and serves patients at more than 475 care locations including physician practices, nursing homes, surgical and rehabilitation centers, home health agencies and other facilities. These operations comprise more than 6,000 licensed beds.

"Our combined resources will bring a whole new level of healthcare to the people of our region," said AnMed CEO John Miller. "Carolinas HealthCare will be especially helpful in enhancing services, managing costs and recruiting new physicians."

William Kibler, chairman of AnMed Health's Board of Trustees, said the board spent many months evaluating the idea of affiliation and then working to select the best partner. The review process, he said, included visits to several CHS-affiliated hospitals.

"Every board and staff member we spoke with was enthusiastic in describing the benefits of an affiliation with Carolinas HealthCare," Kibler said.

AnMed Health operates more than 30 service delivery sites, including two acute care hospitals (with 461 beds and 72 beds), one 40-bed acute care rehabilitation hospital, three freestanding surgery centers and 15 physician practices.

"We cannot predict what changes Congress will make to the present healthcare delivery system," said Calvin M. Snipes, MD, Cannon Memorial's Board of Trustees chairman. "We do know, however, that by teaming up with respected organizations like AnMed Health and Carolinas HealthCare we will be well positioned to move forward in a challenging, highly competitive environment. The benefits of this innovative arrangement include new expertise and expanded services that will enable us to respond well to future changes and improve patient access to quality healthcare."

Cannon Memorial operates an acute care hospital with 55 licensed beds and three medical office buildings. Opened in 1982, has a medical staff of 32 physicians.

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