



**Lifespan**  
Delivering health with care®

 **Care New England**

## BETTER TOGETHER PLEDGE

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*Together, Lifespan, Care New England, and Brown University are uniquely positioned to create a Rhode Island-based, integrated academic health system that will improve quality, access, and affordability of health care for all Rhode Islanders.*

*This moment of extraordinary health care challenges demonstrates the enormous value of a Rhode Island-based, fully integrated health system taking care of all of an individual's health care needs from birth to end of life, right here in Rhode Island.*

**WE PLEDGE** to be a nationally recognized health system focused on patient-centered, high-quality care:

- Be a top performing health system with superior patient outcomes.
- Advance quality by demonstrating improvement in readmissions and maintaining or improving national rating benchmarks.
- We will amplify focus on eliminating health disparities and improving the community health status. We \$10 million over three years to address social determinants of health, including without limitation, lack of affordable housing, food insecurity, insufficient transportation to/from medical appointments, social isolation, and unemployment.
- Implement a single electronic health record (EHR) where physicians have access to patient's EHR—resulting in minimal duplication of tests, reduced medical errors, faster admissions, quicker access to lab results, making care coordination seamless.
- Combine research at Lifespan, Care New England and Brown University, allowing research discoveries to move more quickly from the lab to the bedside, so Rhode Islanders have access to newer, innovative, and effective treatments locally and sooner.
- Attract and keep the best doctors and researchers in Rhode Island.
- Provide quality medical education to produce highly trained health care professionals.



## **WE PLEDGE to create better access to high-quality health care:**

- Increase ease of access to primary care and behavioral health services.
- Continue to participate in the state’s Medicaid Accountable Entity program designed to improve health care quality and better manage costs for Medicaid populations.
- Improve population health and reduce health disparities in Rhode Island while reducing costs by using a shared EHR and innovative “big data”-informed strategies that have been developed and tested by leading researchers at Brown’s Warren Alpert Medical School and School of Public Health.
- Develop healthy environments in Rhode Island communities that lead to reductions in racial and ethnic disparities in health, and do so with the participation of clinicians, public health practitioners and researchers, who play the critical role of supporting communities and individuals who have different levels of health literacy, to make health care accessible.

## **WE PLEDGE to focus on health care affordability:**

- We will operate within rate caps established by OHIC, with no appeals, for the first three years post-closing.
- We will achieve the cost trend target to hold the total annual health care spending increases to 3.2%, as established by the Rhode Island Cost Trends Steering Committee (RICTSC).
- We will collaborate with payers, including the state government, to develop ways to prevent deadly and costly diseases by reducing smoking, obesity, substance abuse, exposure to environmental toxins and more.

## **WE PLEDGE to focus on Rhode Island:**

- We will remain a nonprofit health system, with local decision making guided by a local board of directors.
- We will include all current Lifespan (Rhode Island, The Miriam, Newport and Bradley) and all current CNE (Women & Infants, Kent and Butler) hospitals in the new health system.
- We will amplify focus on eliminating health disparities and improving the community health status. We pledge \$10 million over the initial three years post-closing to identify and improve the social determinants of health. A subcommittee of the Rhode Island Foundation’s Long Term Health Planning Committee will help guide the most effective and appropriate use of the funds.
- Together we will provide robust training, retraining and retention programs for existing and new employees.