



MEDIA RELEASE

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Athens Regional and Morgan Memorial Announce Partnership

Athens, GA -- Morgan Memorial Hospital (MMH) in Madison, along with Athens Regional Health System (ARHS) in Athens, today announced their intent to enter into a clinical collaboration allowing the hospitals to solidify – and in some cases expand – the current primary care environment as well as develop and enhance specialty healthcare services for Morgan County and the surrounding region.

“It is vital to the healthcare of the communities we serve that quality primary care is accessible and delivered locally. The same is true of specialty care. This collaboration will strengthen the already outstanding primary care delivery of Morgan Memorial Hospital and its Medical Staff, and pair it with the availability of superior specialty care from our hospital and our physician groups,” said Dr. Chuck Peck, Interim CEO and President of ARHS.

Athens Regional Health System is one of Northeast Georgia's largest health care systems. The System is comprised of an acute care facility with 350-plus beds, four urgent care centers, a superior network of physicians and specialists, a health maintenance organization and a home health agency.

Morgan Memorial Hospital is 25-bed non-profit Critical Access Hospital located in Madison, Georgia. Certified as a Level IV Trauma Center, the facility hosts a 24-hour emergency room, wide array of diagnostic outpatient services, and serves patients through acute care and swing bed programs.

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Dr. Peck and Ralph Castillo, MMH CEO, emphasized the clinical collaboration agreement was a partnership, not a “sale, acquisition or merger.”

“When we developed our Strategic Plan earlier this year, the over-arching goal was the realization of a new building that would ensure there will be a local, community hospital in Morgan County for the next one-hundred plus years. Partnering with Athens Regional will help us realize that vision in the next few years,” Castillo said.

“As the healthcare environment continues to change, so too, must healthcare providers. Athens Regional and Morgan Memorial have had a strong, mutually beneficial relationship for years. This collaboration not only solidifies that, but truly does expand and enhance access to superior care for the patients in this region for years to come,” said Marilyn Farmer, Chairperson, Athens Regional Health System Board of Directors.

Terry Evans, Chairman of the Hospital Authority that governs MMH, agrees, “This collaboration, this partnership will allow us to maximize the strength and talent of our current medical staff while simultaneously bringing in new medical resources to the hospital, building an even better medical community for all of our patients in Morgan County.”

Dr. Dan Zant, Chief of Staff at MMH concurred, saying, “Local access to specialists will be very helpful for our patients and our hospital. Making it easier for patients to seek out and receive specialty care locally will improve overall healthcare, and will allow us to grow services here.”

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About Athens Regional Health System

The cornerstone of the Health System is Athens Regional Medical Center. Athens Regional is a regional referral center, offering services such as maternal/child, advanced imaging, minimally invasive surgeries, an American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer approved oncology department and a nationally recognized cardiovascular program. Athens Regional was recently recognized for the second time as a TOP 100 hospital in the nation by WomenCertified; among the best hospitals in the region for gastroenterology, pulmonary and surgical procedures according to US News and World Report; and named the 2011 Large Hospital of the Year for the State of Georgia by the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals. Athens Regional is the only locally owned and governed hospital in the region it serves. For more information, visit www.athenshealth.org.

About Morgan Memorial Hospital

Morgan Memorial Hospital is 25-bed non-profit Critical Access Hospital located in Madison, Georgia. Certified as a Level IV Trauma Center, the facility hosts a 24-hour emergency room, wide array of diagnostic outpatient services, and serves patients through acute care and swing bed programs. For more information, visit www.mmh.org.