

Mac hospital sale receives final OK

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Sale of the Willamette Valley Medical Center to Capella Healthcare, a Tennessee start-up, was finalized on Friday, officials announced.

"After a period of customary due diligence and regulatory approval processes, our team is elated to bring Willamette Valley Medical Center into our family of hospitals," said Daniel S. Slipkovich, chief executive officer of Capella.

"During the past several weeks, Capella leadership has visited WVMC a number of times in an effort to better understand the priorities of physicians and employees, as well as get to know the community. We are proud to partner with these individuals and look forward to working together to meet patient needs in Yamhill County and the surrounding communities."

Willamette Valley had been owned by Triad Hospitals Inc. of Plano, Texas, a Fortune 500 company with 53 hospitals and 13 surgical centers spread across the U.S. In March 2007, Tennessee-based Community Health Systems acquired Triad for \$5.1 billion, becoming the largest publicly traded hospital chain in the United States with 130 hospitals in 28 states.

Last November, CHS announced that it planned to spin off nine hospitals to Capella Healthcare for \$315 million, and Willamette Valley was one of them. The transaction gives Capella, a private, for-profit hospital founded two years ago, 14 hospitals in smaller communities around the U.S.

CEO Rosemari Davis said she was pleased with the transaction because she had known Slipkovich and COO Tom Pemberton for a long time and was confident they would treat the hospital well. "Capella provides Willamette Valley Medical Center with financial backing, technical support and specialized services to build on our current success," she said.

The other hospitals involved in the sale are located in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama.