

# Frederick Regional Health System/ MD Anderson Cancer Network®

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *What is happening between FRHS and MD Anderson Cancer Network®?*

Frederick Regional Health System is Maryland's first and only certified member of MD Anderson Cancer Network, a program of MD Anderson Cancer Center. MD Anderson Cancer Center is the global leader in cancer care. FRHS is the 14th system in the U.S. to become a certified member.

### *What does this mean for FRHS?*

The affiliation with MD Anderson Cancer Network allows FRHS to bring new hope to local cancer patients by providing access to treatment guidelines and best practices developed by MD Anderson while remaining close to home.

### *What does this mean for the FRHS oncology team?*

This affiliation builds on the success of the FRHS cancer program. The entire team will benefit from our new affiliation with MD Anderson Cancer Network. MD Anderson's evidence-based clinical guidelines and best practices are now the best practices for FRHS with the oncology team having access to:

- Routine video conferences with MD Anderson physicians
- Participation of FRHS physicians in MD Anderson's tumor boards.
- Consultative peer-to-peer second opinions.
- Expanded educational opportunities.
- Collaborative opportunities with other certified members of this national network.
- Measurement and benchmarking of our care by MD Anderson

### *What does this mean for local patients?*

As a certified member of MD Anderson Cancer Network, FRHS is utilizing MD Anderson's renowned clinical standards and expertise to elevate the quality of care for patients in the region. Collaborating with the network will allow FRHS to offer patients access to the latest in evidence-based care from the leading cancer center in the U.S. We know that cancer often reaches a stage where a patient may wish to seek another opinion. FRHS can now provide them access to some of the most advanced treatment protocols for their particular cancer condition and, when possible, still allow them to remain close to home and their family. In the future, patients can benefit from the access FRHS has to select MD Anderson clinical trials.

### *What makes MD Anderson an expert in cancer care?*

Created in 1941, MD Anderson is one of the world's most respected centers devoted exclusively to cancer patient care, research, education and prevention. It is located in central Houston in the Texas Medical Center. The institution is one of the nation's original three comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Act of 1971 and is one of 44 National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer centers to date. It also has the largest clinical trials program in the nation. In fiscal year 2014, MD Anderson's 20,000 plus cancer fighters provided care for more than 127,000 patients.



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### *Why is MD Anderson Cancer Network® offering FRHS an affiliation?*

MD Anderson's mission is to eliminate cancer not only in Texas, but across the nation and the world. To fulfill their mission, they saw the opportunity to bring a new level of cancer care to other parts of the country through relationships with local community healthcare providers. Currently FRHS is the 14th certified member of MD Anderson Cancer Network.

### *How did this affiliation come about?*

FRHS wanted an affiliation with an established and proven National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designated Cancer Center to enhance its ability to provide state-of-the-art cancer care to patients with even more emphasis on quality and safety. FRHS also wanted to provide patients with access to subspecialty expertise, more clinical trials and a more individualized choice of treatment. With compatible missions and a history of providing high-quality care, the affiliation between MD Anderson Cancer Network and FRHS was a great fit.

### *Does this mean patients will be transferred to Texas for care or teleconferenced into a MD Anderson cancer specialist?*

No. Patient care will be provided by FRHS cancer specialists right here in Maryland. When needed, FRHS cancer specialists can confer with colleagues at MD Anderson. In rare cases, patients may be referred to an MD Anderson physician in Houston for further treatment.

### *Isn't FRHS providing best practices and evidence-based medicine now?*

Yes. The FRHS cancer program has been growing and progressing for years, receiving national recognitions and accreditations. This affiliation builds on our successes and now ensures the ability to share the latest in research and practice guidelines. The rate of change in cancer care and research makes this essential for patients.

### *Are all FRHS cancer specialists certified within MD Anderson Cancer Network?*

FRHS works in a multidisciplinary team approach, and MD Anderson pioneered the concept. FRHS underwent clinical practice reviews and rigorous onsite and offsite evaluations of the medical oncology program, radiation oncology program, surgery, diagnostic imaging, and inpatient and outpatient pharmacy. A number of physicians at FRHS are now certified physicians of MD Anderson Cancer Network and others are in the process of becoming certified. While not all FRHS cancer specialists will be certified, the priority is to connect patients with the most appropriate specialists for their type and stage of cancer. Patients can talk to their doctor or call the FRHS Cancer Center at 301-418-6465 for additional information.

### *How can people obtain additional information?*

Patients, caregivers, and community members can find information about the affiliation at [fmh.org](http://fmh.org). Individuals who would like more information or do not have access to a computer should call 301-418-6465. For additional information about MD Anderson Cancer Network, visit [MDAnderson.org/cancernetwork](http://MDAnderson.org/cancernetwork).

