

Health Care Market Oversight

Norco Purchase of Samaritan Medical Services

The [Health Care Market Oversight](#) (HCMO) program reviews health care business deals to make sure they support statewide goals related to cost, equity, access, and quality. After finishing a review, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) decides whether a business deal, or transaction, should proceed. On April 6, 2023, OHA accepted a complete [notice](#) from Samaritan Health Services, Inc. describing plans to sell Samaritan Medical Supplies, LLC to Norco Inc.

Who's involved?

Samaritan Health Services (“Samaritan”) is a non-profit health system that operates hospitals, clinics, and health plans in Oregon. Samaritan’s five hospitals serve residents in Linn, Benton, Lincoln and portions of Polk and Marion counties. Samaritan Health Plans includes InterCommunity Health Network, which serves Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members in Benton, Lincoln and Linn Counties. **Samaritan Medical Supplies, LLC (“SMS”)** is a Samaritan-owned company based in Corvallis that provides medical equipment (such as wheelchairs, walkers, and oxygen equipment) to patients. SMS operates stores in Newport, Corvallis, and Lebanon, serving approximately 12,000 customers in 2022.

Norco Inc. (“Norco”) is a gas, welding, and home medical equipment supplier based in Boise, Idaho with locations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada. Norco’s locations across Oregon provide respiratory and home medical equipment to approximately 59,000 customers each year.

About the deal

Through this business deal, Norco will purchase all the assets (including inventory, supplies, equipment, and patient accounts) of SMS, and Samaritan will no longer be involved in the medical equipment business. Norco intends to provide the same services and equipment, operate out of the same locations, and continue to serve all existing SMS customers, including OHP and Medicare members. Samaritan says the deal will benefit medical equipment customers and Samaritan patients as Norco has more resources and expertise to operate the business, and Samaritan will be able to focus more on its core mission of community health and wellness.

What's next?

OHA will conduct a 30-day review of the deal to understand how it could affect the cost and quality of health care, access to services, and health equity. During the review, OHA will use health care data, news and media reports, information from the companies, and input from the public to decide whether the deal should be approved.

We want to hear from you!

Public input is crucial to OHA’s review! Your feedback can help us understand how this business deal could help or harm people in your community. To share your thoughts and feedback, please email hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov by **April 21, 2023**. In your email, include the word “Norco”, what you think, and whether you support or oppose the deal.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille, or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact us by email at hcmo.info@oha.oregon.gov or by phone at 503-385-5948. We accept all relay calls.

April 6, 2023