

044 WVH – Chapters Preliminary Review

The [Health Care Market Oversight](#) (HCMO) program reviews proposed health care business deals to make sure they support Oregon’s goals of health equity, lower costs, increased access, and better care. After completing a review, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) issues a decision about whether a business deal, or transaction, involving a health care company should proceed.

Proposed Transaction

On January 14, 2025, OHA accepted a complete [Notice of Material Change Transaction](#) (“notice”) from Willamette Valley Hospice, Inc. d/b/a Willamette Vital Health (“WVH”). The notice describes plans for WVH to be acquired by Chapters Health Systems (“Chapters”). WVH and Chapters are referred to in this report as “the entities.” WVH is a nonprofit hospice provider based in West Salem, Oregon serving around 1,000 patients annually. Chapters is a nonprofit provider of hospice and palliative care operating in Florida, Georgia, Virginia, California, Nevada, Washington, D.C., and Maryland. Under the terms of the proposed transaction, WVH will affiliate with Chapters, and Chapters will become the sole owner of WVH.

OHA’s Review

OHA completed a preliminary review of the proposed transaction. During the review, OHA assessed the likely impact of the transaction across four domains: cost, access, quality, and equity. OHA requested and received additional information from the entities to inform the review. OHA held a public comment period and received no public comment submissions.

Key Findings

The main findings from OHA’s preliminary review were as follows:

- The transaction is unlikely to reduce access to services and may expand access to hospice care in Oregon.
- The transaction is likely to improve WVH’s long-term financial stability.
- The transaction may increase the reimbursement rates WVH obtains from commercial insurers, but the impact on patient costs is likely to be limited.
- The transaction has the potential to improve access to hospice services for communities of color and LGBTQ+ patients in WVH’s service area.

Conclusions and Decision

Based on preliminary review findings, **OHA approved the transaction with conditions** on April 30, 2025. (See [Preliminary Review Order](#)). OHA approved the proposed transaction based on the following criterion:

April 30, 2025

The material change transaction is not likely to substantially alter the delivery of health care in Oregon.

The proposed transaction involves a single hospice agency location that accounts for approximately 5% of home hospice care episodes statewide. The entities have stated they expect to maintain all services currently offered by WVH, including uncompensated and undercompensated services. The entities are not expecting any reduction in WVH's patient care staffing levels, geographic service area, or locations because of the transaction. OHA has placed conditions on its approval of the transaction to ensure that services and patient care staffing are maintained and that WVH's services meet the needs of communities in its service area. The transaction may help to strengthen WVH's financial sustainability so that it can continue operating in the longer term.

The [Preliminary Review Order](#) outlines the conditions OHA has placed on its approval of the proposed transaction.

As required by statute, OHA will conduct follow-up analyses one, two, and five years after the transaction is complete. OHA's monitoring will assess compliance with approval conditions and whether the entity keeps the commitments included in the notice. More broadly, OHA will monitor changes to health care cost, quality, access, and health equity for people in Oregon.