

WakeMed and Atrium Health are coming together to improve access and transform care in Wake County and across North Carolina.

At WakeMed, we deliver great care with great purpose to a great community. We serve humbly with conviction and compassion to improve the health and well-being of our community now and for generations to come. While much has changed since opening our doors in 1961, our mission to care for all has never wavered. The trust we have earned from those who rely on us is sacred, and we would never do anything to erode that trust or what this community has built.

Our decision to unite WakeMed with Atrium Health truly is in the best interest of the patients and families we serve today and those we will care for tomorrow. We believe it is in the best interest of our clinical care teams and staff, who both choose and trust WakeMed as the place where they deliver health and healing.

By combining our organizations, WakeMed will have additional resources and expertise to further enhance the world-class health care delivered here in Wake County with our clinical care teams patients know and trust. WakeMed will join the Atrium Health network of more than 40 hospitals that serve portions of North Carolina. While WakeMed will be fully integrated with Atrium Health, it will remain a 501c (3) nonprofit organization and retain its assets, and maintain its operating licenses, Medicare provider numbers, accreditations and credentialed Medical Staffs. WakeMed will remain the WakeMed you know and trust.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners will appoint eight out of 14 Board members to the WakeMed Board of Directors, which helps ensure citizens of Wake County have a majority of Board members looking out for our community's best interests.

As part of this agreement, Atrium Health has pledged a \$2 billion investment in WakeMed to help modernize and expand our hospital campuses and build new care sites in communities served by WakeMed. This investment also allows WakeMed to develop new services and ways to care for our community, including enhanced access for patients, specialty services and community-based programs.

Why is this strategic combination good for WakeMed and Wake County?

- Makes health care in Wake County and across North Carolina more accessible, while ensuring our ability to expand upon our mission of caring for all.
- Keeps our exceptional care local with the additional strength and resources provided by a larger organization who supports our growth and understands our deep roots in serving our community and region.
- Continue WakeMed's commitment to charity care and supporting the underserved in Wake County.
- Provide access to capital to support our renovation and expansion plans to deliver the world class care and services for our future and that Wake County patients deserve.
- Enhance career opportunities for current staff while expanding training and education opportunities for the next generation of health care professionals. Both WakeMed and Atrium Health are committed to our talented workforce. For employees, our focus is on growing and strengthening our workforce, and there are no plans for layoffs.

Why now?

The time was right for this opportunity. Health care costs are rising while changes to financing and reimbursement are causing uncertainty for health care organizations.

- There are many pressures that make staying independent more complex and difficult for the long run (<10% of hospitals in North Carolina are independent). WakeMed is Wake County's "safety net" hospital, caring for all and providing more than \$100 million in charity care. If WakeMed were not financially able to deliver this amount of charity care, our community is at risk, and this care would become a liability for Wake County taxpayers.
- As a financially sound organization today, we can choose a partner organization instead of being forced into an acquisition or merger. Hospitals in other areas of North Carolina have been in weaker financial standing and did not have a choice. That is not the position WakeMed is in. By aligning with a like-minded system, WakeMed will be able to better address rising labor and supply costs as well as new market disruptors and competition. This combination makes it possible for WakeMed to continue to be an equal in our local, competitive health care market.

Why Atrium?

- Our similar missions:
 - WakeMed Mission: Improve the health and well-being of our community with outstanding and compassionate care to all
 - Atrium Health Mission: Improve health, elevate hope and advance healing for all
- Commitment to their local communities and investments made in these communities in significant ways, leading to the public's trust and confidence.
- Aligned culture of dedication and service with a commitment to putting the patient and family first always.
- Commitment to high-quality care, patient safety and clinical excellence with a proven track record for scaling services.
- A bold vision to advance health care so that more people can have enhanced access and live healthier lives.

How was this decision made?

- Three years of evaluation and significant due diligence by the executive committee of the WakeMed Board of Directors to determine what is best for WakeMed's future. The WakeMed Board of Directors unanimously approved the combination with Atrium Health.
- After consultation with the Wake County Board of Commissioners to ensure we followed our 1997 Transfer Agreement, additional time was spent with the Commissioners to review the terms of the agreement and the many benefits offered to Wake County. We reviewed the necessary amendments to the Transfer Agreement and the Articles of Incorporation. On May 4, 2026, the County Commissioners officially heard our request and delayed the vote for up to 90 days on these two legal documents.



To learn more, visit:

[WakeMed.org/wakemed-atrimum-combination](https://www.wakemed.org/wakemed-atrimum-combination)

or scan this code.