

Frequently Asked Questions

UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids is now a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network.

1. What is the Mayo Clinic Care Network?

- The Mayo Clinic Care Network is a non-ownership, contractual relationship between UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids and Mayo Clinic. Through the network physicians can collaborate and deepen their relationship to improve the delivery of health care to our patients and communities.
- Network member physicians and providers have access to Mayo Clinic resources, including tools to promote physician-to-physician consultations and a point-of-care database of best-practice information on disease management, care guidelines, treatment recommendations and reference materials.

2. Why is UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids doing this?

We believe this collaboration with the Mayo Clinic elevates the healthcare standards for our community. It's about improving care, reducing costs and keeping our patients' in Cedar Rapids and collaborating with the world-renown experts at the Mayo Clinic.

3. What are the tools UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids has access to? How will physicians work together?

- **eConsults** will allow a UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids and Mayo Clinic physicians to connect on patient care. When a physician wants additional input on a complex case, they can request an eConsult with Mayo specialists. The electronic "consultation" is then scheduled into the specialist's calendar with pertinent medical records.
- **AskMayoExpert** is a best-practice medical resource that is available digitally. Developed and used by Mayo Clinic today, it contains the latest Mayo-vetted information for use at the point of care, providing quick insight on disease management, care guidelines, treatment recommendations and reference materials.

4. What about other affiliates within UnityPoint Health? Will they have access to the Mayo Clinic expertise as well?

As of today, only UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids is a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. UnityPoint Health strongly believes each affiliate has the autonomy to make decisions for their individual market. Cedar Rapids has made the decision to offer access to Mayo Clinic expertise to its providers.

5. Will patients automatically be referred to Mayo Clinic?

There is no obligation for referrals to Mayo Clinic. The primary goal of UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids and Mayo Clinic, through its Mayo Clinic Care Network, is to help more patients gain the benefits of Mayo Clinic knowledge and expertise close to home, ensuring they need travel outside the region only when necessary.

6. Will patients who need the specialty services of the University of Iowa now have to go to Mayo?

No. UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids will continue to refer those patients who could best be served by the University to the University. There is no obligation to refer patients to Mayo Clinic. If you feel your patients may need to travel for additional specialty care, you will, as before, confer with your patient and do what seems best based on that discussion and your professional judgment.

7. What if our patients want us to use Mayo Clinic resources for their care?

- The resources of the Mayo Clinic Care Network are available for use at the physician's discretion.
- With UnityPoint, Mayo Clinic recognizes that by working together patients, and the health of the community benefit. This collaboration is not meant to imply any local need or lack of expertise.
- The tools and services of the network offer additional options if you feel the opinion of another specialist would be helpful, or if the patient requests additional input for peace of mind.

8. Did UnityPoint Health – Cedar Rapids ask to be considered as a member of the network?

Yes, we did. We believe Mayo's resources will enhance the care we can provide while helping us keep patients close to home, which we know is important to them.

9. Will Mayo Clinic see patients through the Mayo Clinic Care Network?

No, our patients will continue to see their local doctor. If our patients need specialty care not available in Cedar Rapids, they may travel to Mayo Clinic or another health care organization, but our goal is to share medical expertise so that whenever possible, our patients stay close to home.

10. Will Mayo Clinic members have access to "just" Mayo Clinic Care Network doctors or all of Mayo Clinic specialists?

Mayo Clinic is sharing the breadth and depth of its entire specialty expertise with our physicians and our patients through this care network relationship.