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**MetroHealth to Open Freestanding Emergency Departments
in Cleveland Heights and Parma**

(Cleveland, OH) The MetroHealth System and HealthSpan today announced plans to bring freestanding emergency departments to Parma and Cleveland Heights. This new expansion supports MetroHealth's commitment to improve access to care for every resident of Cuyahoga County.

Under the terms of the agreement and pending regulatory approval, HealthSpan will cease operating its urgent services at a date to be determined, while maintaining all other services at 10 Severance Circle in Cleveland Heights and 12301 Snow Road in Parma. The building space in each location will be leased to MetroHealth, which will begin new operations as freestanding emergency departments in early 2016. The emergency departments will be a part of The MetroHealth System and under the direction of MetroHealth's Department of Emergency Medicine. Under MetroHealth's management, the emergency departments will be open to every resident of Cleveland Heights, Parma and the surrounding communities.

Until MetroHealth begins its new operations, HealthSpan will continue to operate its acute care services so there is no interruption in service. HealthSpan Physicians primary and specialty care providers will continue to see patients at the HealthSpan Parma Medical Center and HealthSpan Cleveland Heights Medical Center and its nine other medical offices located throughout Northeast Ohio.

In addition, HealthSpan Physicians announced it is increasing access to care and is now accepting patients from most insurance plans. Previously, HealthSpan Physicians were only accessible to patients with HealthSpan insurance.

The MetroHealth System's new operations ensure that residents of these communities will have around-the-clock access to emergency care for more severe illnesses than were previously treated at these facilities. The emergency departments (EDs) will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will be run by MetroHealth ED staff with the same high level of education, training and certification as those who staff the emergency department on MetroHealth's main campus. The two new emergency departments will be among 15 non-trauma center locations in Northeast Ohio that work with the Northern Ohio Trauma System

(NOTS), a collaboration created to make sure severely ill and injured patients get to the right hospital, in the right manner, in the right amount of time.

Statement from Akram Boutros, MD, FACHE, President and CEO, The MetroHealth System:

“We are very pleased to bring our highly regarded emergency services to Cleveland Heights and Parma. In keeping with MetroHealth’s mission, these facilities will be open to everyone, including those covered by HealthSpan, other private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid, as well as those who do not have insurance. Our primary goal is to enhance the overall health and well-being of our community.

This is another step in MetroHealth’s transformation that moves health care closer to patients via a network of facilities throughout Cuyahoga County. It benefits county residents without the expense of building new facilities. We look forward to playing a more active role in these vibrant communities and provide better access to care for residents of the eastern and southern portions of the county.

These emergency departments will be supervised by MetroHealth’s Department of Emergency Medicine at main campus and staffed by MetroHealth clinicians who specialize in emergency care. MetroHealth is assessing its employment needs at these new facilities. We encourage everyone to apply for positions at MetroHealth that match their credentials, qualifications and work experience – including positions that may be available at these new emergency departments and across The MetroHealth System.”

Statement from Nabil Chehade, MD, President and Market CEO, HealthSpan Physicians:

“The MetroHealth System is one of the region’s premier healthcare systems and is committed to providing convenient access to high-quality care for residents throughout Cuyahoga County. That is why we sought this agreement with them.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will be working closely with MetroHealth to ensure a seamless transition for our patients. We also will be working together to educate our patients about this change in care and services so they will understand the benefits.

We are excited to partner with MetroHealth so that patients who visit these facilities in Parma and Cleveland Heights will soon have access to the entire care continuum under one roof – a full-service Emergency Department operated by MetroHealth, and specialty, ancillary and primary care services provided by HealthSpan physicians.”

About The MetroHealth System

The MetroHealth System is an essential health system committed to providing health care to everyone in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and improving the health of the community overall. Its 6,700 employees deliver care to everyone at its main campus, just west of downtown Cleveland, and at 18 other locations. It also provides health care at more than 50 additional sites in Cuyahoga County through the MetroHealth School Health Program and other community partnerships.

MetroHealth is home to Cuyahoga County’s only Level I Adult Trauma Center and only adult and pediatric burn center in the state of Ohio verified by the American Burn Association and the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. In the past year, MetroHealth provided more than one million patient visits in its hospital and health centers.

MetroHealth also is an academic medical center committed to teaching and research; each of its active physicians holds a faculty appointment at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. MetroHealth has earned Magnet status, which places it in the top 7% of all hospitals nationwide for nursing excellence.

MetroHealth's mission is, "Leading the way to a healthier you and a healthier community through service, teaching, discovery and teamwork." For more information, visit www.metrohealth.org.

About HealthSpan

HealthSpan Physicians is part of Mercy Health, the largest and most fully integrated health system in Ohio, the fourth largest employer in the state and one of the largest nonprofit health systems in the United States. All of HealthSpan Physicians medical facilities are recognized by NCQA as patient-centered medical homes. As a multi-specialty practice, HealthSpan Physicians is comprised of nearly 300 primary care and specialty physicians, nurse practitioners, therapists, technologists, technicians and employees that pride themselves in high quality care for patients. With 11 convenient locations throughout northeast Ohio, HealthSpan Physicians has been recognized by multiple national organizations and health plans for improved outcomes, high patient satisfaction and lower costs. HealthSpan Integrated Care and HealthSpan Inc. offer insurance plans that serve most of Ohio's major metro areas, with health plans for individuals and families, companies and Medicare and Medicaid members. For more information, visit www.healthspan.org, or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/myhealthspan or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/myhealthspan.