

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# 032 Pennant –Signature Eugene/Albany Transaction 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.

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### Proposed Transaction

The Pennant Group, Inc. (“Pennant”), parent group of affiliated home health, hospice, and senior living companies, proposes to purchase assets of certain home health and hospice agencies owned by The Signature Group, LLC (“Signature”). This transaction is associated with five other OHA transaction reviews (028 Signature-Pennant NP2U, 029 Signature-Pennant Tigard, 030 Signature-Pennant Lincoln City, 031 Signature-Pennant Bend, 033 Signature-Pennant Medford). In this transaction Willamette Healthcare, LLC (“Willamette”), owned by Pennant, plans to purchase the assets of Avamere Home Health Care, LLC (“AHHC”) and Signature Hospice Eugene, LLC (“Signature Hospice”) which are owned by Signature.

### OHA’s Review

OHA completed a 30-day 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. Upon request by OHA, Pennant and Signature (collectively, the “entities”), provided additional information on referral relationships between entities and corporate relationships of other entities that are not otherwise specified in the transaction documents. OHA held a public comment period and received no public comment submissions.

### Key Findings



#### Cost

OHA does not have specific concerns about price/cost increases resulting from the transaction. The vast majority of the entities’ revenue come from Medicare Advantage plans and Original Medicare, which to some degree limits any price/cost effects from the proposed transaction.

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### Access

The proposed transaction is not expected to change the level of services available to the community or the types of services offered to patients.



### Quality

The proposed transaction is unlikely to adversely affect quality. Avamere Home Health Care, LLC and Signature Hospice Eugene, LLC perform better than average in most quality metrics, including patient satisfaction surveys.



### Equity

The entities committed to continuing to serve patients with Medicaid and Medicare coverage. The proposed transaction is unlikely to result in any significant impacts to health equity.

## Conclusions and Decision

OHA [approved the transaction](#) on October 14, 2024.

OHA will monitor the impact of the transaction by conducting follow up analyses one year, two years, and five years after the business deal is completed. During these reviews, OHA will analyze any impact of the transaction on quality of care, access to care, affordability, and health equity, specifically following up on concerns or observations noted in the Findings & Potential Impacts section of the Review Summary Report. OHA will also assess whether the parties to the transaction have kept to the commitments stated in the notice of transaction regarding cost, access, and quality of care.