

## Mercy Regional Health Center Inc., KS Bond Rating Raised To 'A+' On New Sponsorship By Via Christi And Ascension Health

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DALLAS (Standard & Poor's) April 30, 2014--Standard & Poor's Ratings Services raised its long-term rating to 'A+' from 'A' on the \$25.1 million series 2013 hospital revenue refunding bonds issued by Manhattan, Kan. for Mercy Regional Health Center (Mercy) in Manhattan. The outlook is stable.

The 'A+' rating reflects one notch of group support as we consider Mercy Regional Medical Center (which we understand will be renamed Via Christi Hospital later this year) a "moderately strategic" subsidiary of Ascension Health (AA+/Stable). On Feb. 28, 2014, Mercy fully joined Via Christi Health upon the transfer of Memorial Hospital Association's 50% interest in Mercy to Via Christi. In April 2013, Via Christi fully joined Ascension Health. All outstanding Via Christi bonds, except for those issued by Mercy, were called for redemption in June 2013.

"More specifically, the 'A+' rating reflects our view of Mercy's sponsorship by and related benefits from Via Christi and by Ascension Health as its ultimate parent, robust operating performance, sound balance sheet metrics, favorable quality metrics, and historically acceptable payor mix," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Karl Propst.

### RELATED CRITERIA AND RESEARCH

#### Related Criteria

- [USPF Criteria: Not-For-Profit Health Care](#), June 14, 2007
- [General Criteria: Group Rating Methodology](#), Nov. 19, 2013

#### Related Research

- [Glossary: Not-For-Profit Health Care Ratios](#), Oct. 26, 2011
- [The Outlook For U.S. Not-For-Profit Health Care Providers Is Negative From Increasing Pressures](#), Dec. 10, 2013
- [U.S. Not-For-Profit Health Care Stand-Alone Ratios: Operating Pressures Led To Mixed Results In 2012](#), Aug. 8, 2013
- [Health Care Providers And Insurers Pursue Value Initiatives Despite Reform Uncertainties](#), May 9, 2013
- [U.S. Not-For-Profit Small Hospitals Turn In Mixed 2012 Median Performance Ratios As The Industry Grapples With Change](#), Oct. 23, 2013
- [U.S. Not-For-Profit Health Care Providers Hone Their Strategies To Manage Transition Risk](#), May 16, 2012

Complete ratings information is available to subscribers of RatingsDirect at [www.globalcreditportal.com](http://www.globalcreditportal.com) and at [www.spcapitaliq.com](http://www.spcapitaliq.com). All ratings affected by this rating action can be found on Standard & Poor's public Web site at [www.standardandpoors.com](http://www.standardandpoors.com). Use the Ratings search box located in the left column.

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