

Strengthening High-Quality, Affordable Local Care in Minnesota and western Wisconsin

Sutter Health and Allina Health share a commitment to making it easier for patients to get the care they need close to home and in the most appropriate care setting.

Expanding access is an important part of making healthcare more affordable. When patients can get high-quality care and preventive care earlier and in convenient, lower-cost settings like clinics and urgent care centers, we can help prevent complications, avoid unnecessary higher-cost care and improve health outcomes.

Sutter Health has a strong track record of meaningfully improving patient access to clinically excellent care in California:

- 80 new sites of care added since 2022 across urban and rural communities
- **3,500** physicians and advanced practice clinicians recruited since 2023
- **42%** reduction in median wait time for a new primary care appointment in 2025
- **400,000** more patients served through expanded access to care, since 2023
- **16 hospitals** earned an “A” Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group in 2026

Together, with more than **\$2 billion in investment in Minnesota and western Wisconsin**, we will build on Sutter’s experience and Allina Health’s strong foundation to expand access to care and improve affordability through new outpatient facilities, additional clinicians and more convenient options for care.

A Shared Responsibility

Improving access and quality and helping patients get care earlier are important steps toward making healthcare more affordable. At the same time, healthcare organizations across the country are operating in an increasingly challenging environment that affects the cost of delivering care:

- **19%** of growth in hospital expenses [attributed](#) to caring for sicker, more complex patients (2019-2024)
- \$43B [spent](#) by hospitals in 2025 to collect payments owed by insurers
- \$0.82 [reimbursed](#) by Medicare and \$.079 for Medicaid for every dollar of care delivered
- 9.9% [increase](#) in costs of medical supplies for hospitals in 2025
- 11% [increase](#) in drug costs since 2023, exceeding the growth rate for labor and total operating expenses.
- **10 million** more [uninsured](#) Americans by 2034 including a [loss of coverage](#) for as many as 140,000 Minnesotans

Making healthcare more affordable is a shared responsibility. Health systems, insurance companies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, employers and government all have a role in improving affordability. Sutter Health and Allina Health are committed to doing our part.

Our Path Forward

Joining Sutter Health will provide Allina Health with the resources and capabilities to meaningfully improve quality, access and affordability for communities in the Twin Cities metro area, greater Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Together, we will:

- Open **new locations** for more patients to get care close to home
- Expand **convenient, lower-cost care options** through clinics, urgent cares, same-day surgery centers and virtual care tools
- Build on the strong talent and expertise of Allina Health's team through **recruitment of more physicians and clinicians** to serve more patients and make it easier to get appointments
- Strengthen Allina Health's leading specialty institutes to improve patients' access to **leading specialized care**
- Invest in **technology and digital tools** that make it easier to find care, schedule appointments, connect with their care teams and manage health

Get the Facts

Sutter Health operates in a highly competitive market in Northern and Central California, which includes many national, regional and academic systems. Further, our nonprofit integrated health system delivers high-quality care that creates efficiencies and benefits for our patients and communities.

- Past allegations about Sutter Health do not reflect how we operate. Previous legal settlements related to insurance contracts are decades old and were resolved without findings of wrongdoing.
- Under our new leadership, Sutter Health is focused on doing our part to make healthcare more affordable by expanding care in lower-cost ambulatory and outpatient settings, advancing value-based care models and collaborating with health plans and partners across the industry who all play a role in making care more affordable.
- Independent benchmarking from Vizient from August 2025 through July 2026 shows Sutter delivering a strong combination of affordability and quality. Sutter's costs are lower while complication rates are better and mortality outcomes are well below the benchmark when compared to other Northern California hospitals.
- Sutter's aggregate cost index was approximately 10% below the regional median, while its complication rate was better than the regional median. Sutter's mortality index was substantially better than the benchmark reference in the analysis. *Source: Vizient, the nation's leading provider of data driven healthcare performance, which includes Mayo Clinic and Allina Health.