



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE  
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

December 18, 2014

Dear Bipartisan Round Table on Hospitals & Health Care Members and Ex-Officio Members,

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut applauds you for delving into the complex issues related to the rapidly shifting hospital and health care landscape. We have been monitoring the Round Table's Informational Hearings with great interest.

The Foundation has also been following these issues and believes that there has been a dearth of information available to the general public about the impact that these changes could have on health care costs, quality and access. We believe that Connecticut's residents deserve to know more about hospital mergers and possible conversions, as well as hospital absorption of physician practices.

Yesterday, we posted a blog on this topic as well as two reports on our website, at: [www.universalhealthct.org](http://www.universalhealthct.org). Attached you will find a copy of the blog, the two reports and an executive summary. We hope that they are helpful to you in your deliberations.

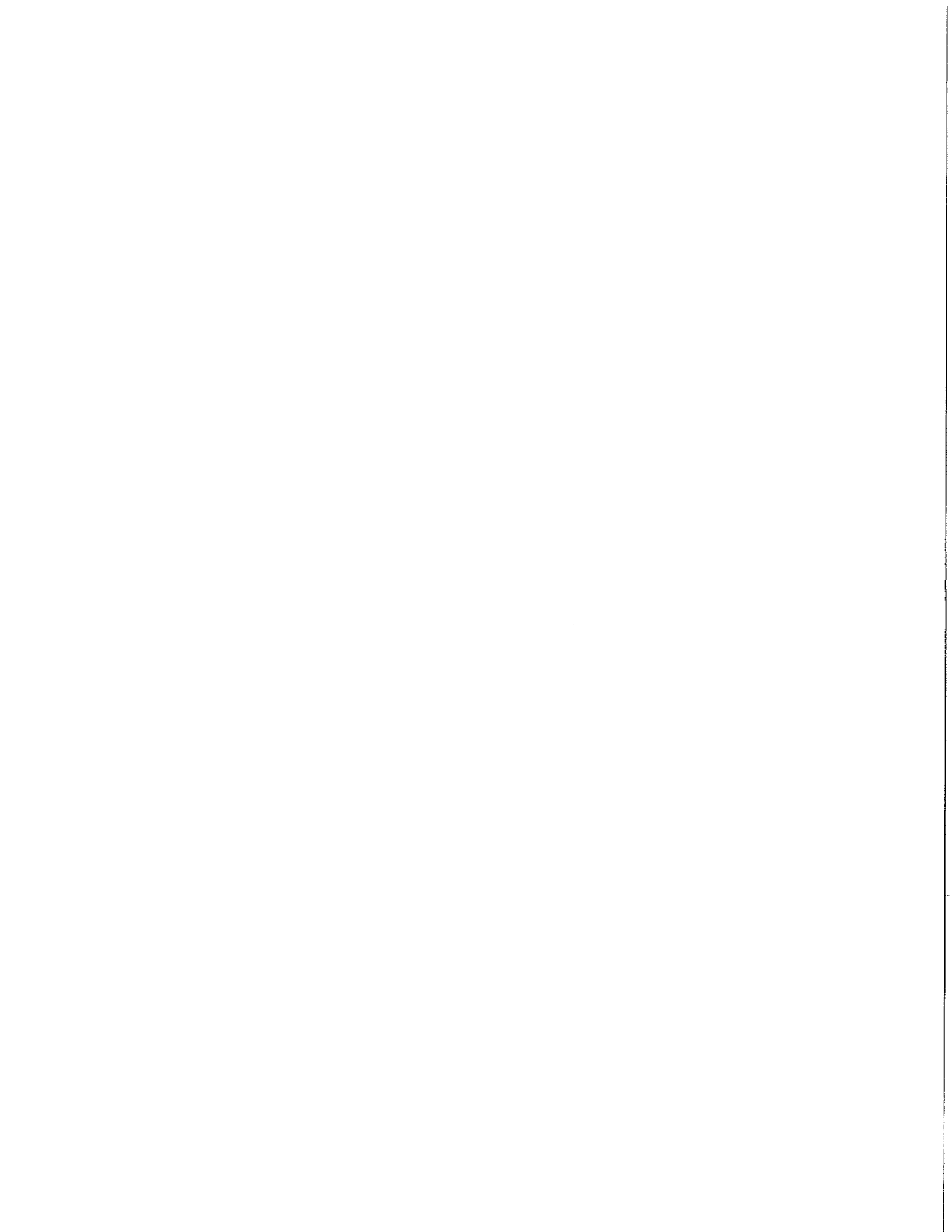
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lynne Ide, Director of Program & Policy

203-639-0550 ext. 320 [lide@universalhealthct.org](mailto:lide@universalhealthct.org)





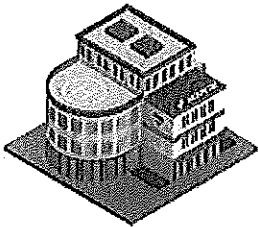
## Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

*A place for conversation on health care  
policy and reform*

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### Changing Hospital Landscape in Connecticut

Posted on [December 17, 2014](#) by [universalhealthct](#)



Hospitals are extremely valued institutions in Connecticut. As sites of life, death and healing, they hold huge emotional meaning for many of us. They are also critical to Connecticut's economy and are often the largest employers in the towns where they are located.

Existing hospital systems are growing larger and the remaining independent hospitals are seeking partners. The possibility of as many as five hospitals converting to for-profit status and becoming part of a large national company, Tenet Healthcare, was imminent until very recently. To add to this, hospitals are acquiring physician practices at an accelerated rate. Just today, it was announced that Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford will become part of a national chain.

Because hospitals hold such a central role in Connecticut's communities, these changes are and will continue to have a major impact on our state's residents. Yet, how much is the typical person aware of what all of this change means to them?

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut believes that Connecticut's residents deserve to know more about the acceleration of hospital mergers, possible conversion of non-profit hospitals to for-profit entities and hospital absorption of physician practices and what impact these changes could have on health care costs, quality and access.

We have produced several reports, now posted on our web site. One, [State of Connecticut's Hospitals](#), uses tables and graphs to provide a profile of the current hospital landscape. In addition, we commissioned a paper, [Hospital Consolidations and Conversions: A Review of the Literature](#) to provide an overview of the possible reasons for these trends, as well as their potential impact. We also compiled an [Executive Summary](#) of the literature review. Along with making these reports available, we have and will continue to blog regularly about changes occurring with Connecticut's hospitals.

It is also important to note that in the 2014 legislative session, two bills, [PA-14-168](#) and [PA-14-145](#) were passed that enhanced government's ability to protect consumers from some of the possible negative consequences in the shifts occurring in the hospital environment.

Right now, further inquiry is underway. The [Bipartisan Round Table on Hospitals and Healthcare](#) is meeting regularly. The goal of this group is to, "...discuss the rapid changes in the health care market and develop policy recommendations to help ensure continued access to affordable quality care in Connecticut." And the state Comptroller is investigating the appropriateness and reasonableness of hospital outpatient facility fees, which are on the rise due to the increase in hospital-owned physician practices.

All of these documents and links are intended to provide information to Connecticut residents. We also hope that the information will prove useful to policy makers as they consider appropriate responses to the very real consequences of the shifts in the hospital landscape in Connecticut.

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