

Due to the deeper penetration of managed care in SWPA, two predominant networks have formed, although they are loosely affiliated, non-financial provider networks. **The Southwestern Integrated Delivery Network (SIDN)** is comprised of 777 bed AGH, Forbes Health System, the 300 bed Allegheny Valley Hospital, 337 bed St. Clair Hospital, and the 225 bed Sewickley Valley Hospital. Within the last month, Sewickley has agreed to a merger with The Medical Center, Beaver (County), a 470 bed acute care facility. It is not known if The Medical Center will join SIDN.

The other network is the **Tri-State Health System (Tri-State)**. The largest member is the 1,221 bed UPMC. Other members include: Children's Hospital at 235 beds, Magee - Women's Hospital at 290 beds, 296 bed Passavant Hospital, South Hills Health System, 267 bed St. Margaret Hospital, 364 bed Washington Hospital, and 225 bed South Side Hospital. Recent developments have brought this network closer. UPMC has purchased South Side Hospital, and has created a community foundation that purchased St. Margaret Hospital. The foundation was funded by UPMC.

Two different philosophies seem to prevail among the networks. SIDN appears to be resisting the acquisition mode of Tri - State. As one of two major tertiary care centers in Pittsburgh, UPMC being the other, AGH is the linchpin of SIDN. AGH's parent corporation, Allegheny Health, Education and Research Foundation, owns the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hospital, two smaller community hospitals in the Philadelphia area, in addition to affiliations with Hahnemann University and Hospital and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

Intertwined with each network is an insurer. SIDN appears to have US Healthcare, the large, publicly traded HMO located outside of Philadelphia. Tri - State is heavily aligned with the local Blue Cross Association. Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania is acquiring Blue Shield of Pennsylvania. Blue Cross controls 65% of the regional insurance market, and offers fee for service, point of service, HMO, and Medicare/Medicaid HMOs. Additionally, Blue Cross is constructing eight strategically located, free standing clinics. These appear to be based on a modified staff model. Physicians from the community and the hospital serving the particular area have been invited to staff the clinics.

All of the hospitals in the consulate region have, are, or will undergo restructuring. In general, this means two things. One, a decrease in the work force, and two, different methods of delivering care to its patients.

A significant and growing need is for assisted living, personal care residences, and skilled nursing facilities. Other opportunities include home care services and products. These would range from aides or nursing assistance in the home, to home medical equipment such as canes, walkers, wheelchairs, etc., to home oxygen services. Data from a 1992 survey on nursing homes in Allegheny County, in comparison to the state, reveals the following: