



Contact: Fiona Phelan  
Media Relations Manager  
(860) 714-1076/ (860) 712-8517  
[FPhelan@stfrancisCare.org](mailto:FPhelan@stfrancisCare.org)

## **SAINT FRANCIS CARE NAMES VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF NURSING OFFICER** *Denise M. Peterson Selected After National Search*

Hartford, CT (Aug. 3, 2015) Saint Francis Care has named Denise M. Peterson, RN, MSHCA, NEA-BC, FACHE, as Vice President, Professional Nursing Practice and Quality, Chief Nursing Officer, effective August 1, 2015.

In her new role, she will be responsible for nursing education, nursing practice, and staffing; and, in collaboration with Surendra Khera, M.D., Chief Medical Officer/Chief Quality Officer, Peterson will have joint oversight of the inpatient medicine units, hospitalist medicine, critical Care, respiratory therapy. quality, performance improvement, accreditation, safety and high reliability, pharmacy, case management, infection prevention and the patient experience.

Since February 2014, Peterson has served as the Executive Director of Surgical Services at Saint Francis.

A resident of Middlebury, Peterson has 32 years of experience as a healthCare executive. Prior to joining Saint Francis she was Vice President of Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer at The Hospital of Central Connecticut (THOCC), New Britain. While at THOCC, she served as the executive lead for the design and construction of a 100,000 square-foot cancer center and medical office building. Peterson also held the role as Director of the Oncology Service Line, Pediatrics, and Stroke Center of Excellence.

Peterson earned her nursing degree from the Saint Francis School of Nursing, her bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Hartford, and her master of science in healthCare administration from Rensselaer, Hartford. She is a Fellow of the American College of HealthCare Executives (FACHE) and is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (NEA-BC). She also earned a Green Belt in Lean Six Sigma.

### **About Saint Francis Care**

Saint Francis Care is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis Care include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research, and Saint Francis HealthCare Partners. Johnson Memorial Medical Center, parent organization of Johnson Memorial Hospital and Home and Community Health Services is also a Saint Francis Care Partner. Saint Francis Care's services are supported by a network of five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit [www.stfrancisCare.com](http://www.stfrancisCare.com).