

## [Why East Tennessee is the Best Place to Retire: First Rate Healthcare](#)

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Knoxville, being one of Tennessee's four largest cities and the largest city in the region, is home to a number of health systems that extend their services to East Tennesseans through their major medical centers as well as the placement of branch centers and specialty clinics around Knoxville and its surrounding counties. As a result, East Tennessee residents have long been the beneficiaries of cutting-edge medical technologies. With [seventeen major hospitals](#) in the area (many of them [award-winning](#)), as well as a multitude of specialty clinics, East Tennesseans have access to outstanding healthcare options.



It is hard to understate the importance of the [Baptist Health System](#) to the region. Consisting of three major hospitals, the Baptist Hospital for Women, and the Baptist Senior Center, the Baptist Health System specializes in the treatment of senior health, women's health, as well as cancer, heart, and eye health. Baptist Health System's [flagship hospital](#), located in downtown Knoxville, has been repeatedly named a Top 100 Hospital and a Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospital. In 2006, renovations on this facility were completed, updating the chapel, the medical surgical unit, intensive care unit, and some waiting areas.

The [Covenant Health System](#) consists of several regional hospitals including Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center, Parkwest Medical Center (a Top 100 Heart Hospital), Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge, Fort Loudon Medical Center, and Fort Sanders Sevier Medical Center. The [Thompson Cancer Survival Center](#) provides the newest cancer treatments and diagnostics in three area locations; a fourth location is under construction at this time. Covenant Health boasts the delivery of 3,043 babies at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center in 2006 (including 66 sets of twins, eight sets of triplets, and a set of quadruplets!). Also in 2006, Parkwest Medical Center graduated the largest class in history from its [Peninsula Behavioral Health](#) division.

[St. Mary's Health System](#) includes four hospitals and a number of centers throughout East Tennessee; its flagship Medical Center has served the region for nearly 75 years providing women's services, cancer care, orthopedics, and cardiac care, among others. A Top 100 Hospital, St. Mary's Medical Center provides quality care with [five star ratings](#) from [HealthGrades](#) in a number of service areas. For 2007, major improvements to the System include the addition of a 72-bed acute-care facility to its [North Campus](#), scheduled to open this fall. Also, St. Mary's

flagship campus will undergo renovations along with the new construction of a \$100 million patient tower.

The University of Tennessee Medical Center (UTMC) serves as the region's [Level I Trauma Center](#). An academic hospital in the [University Health System, Inc.](#), UTMC employees focus on education, including research and discovery of new and emerging treatments. The UTMC is but one of several centers in a regional network. Other centers include the Brain and Spine Institute, the Cancer Institute, the Heart Lung Vascular Institute, and the Center for Women's Health. In 2006, UTMC opened its Heart and Stroke Center, as well as the Tom and Katherine Black neonatal intensive care unit. This \$4.8 million unit added 29 private rooms for East Tennessee's tiniest and most fragile citizens.



## Roane Medical Center is Newest Member of Covenant Health

Knoxville, TN (May 14, 2008)

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It's official. **Roane Medical Center** is now affiliated with Covenant Health, a Knoxville-based health system that provides comprehensive health services throughout East Tennessee.

Closing took place at a May 13 ceremony held at Roane Medical Center. Participants included hospital administrator Jim Gann, Harriman Mayor Chris Mason and Covenant Health President and CEO Tony Spezia.

Mason was optimistic about the affiliation and said it will provide a bright future for Roane Medical Center. "What we have just completed will ensure quality healthcare for the citizens of Harriman and Roane County for many years to come. We look forward to a great relationship with Covenant Health," he said.

The initial agreement between the Harriman City Council and the Knoxville-based health system was unanimously approved at the Council's March meeting, which followed approvals by the Roane Medical Center and Covenant Health boards of directors. The state attorney general has also approved the affiliation.

"Covenant Health grew from the combined efforts of local health care organizations, and I am proud of our individual member hospitals and our commitment to the communities we serve in East Tennessee," said Tony Spezia of Covenant Health. "With this partnership, the people of Roane County will continue to have a voice in the leadership of their hospital and the quality of health care they receive."

Plans for Roane Medical Center call for Covenant Health to build a new hospital on property recently annexed into the city of Harriman located near the Midtown exit from Interstate 40. Prior to construction, Covenant Health will gather community input regarding the health care needs of the surrounding area, develop plans for a new facility and submit a Certificate of Need to the state for approval.



# Roane Medical Center joins Covenant group

By [Carly Harrington](#) ([Contact](#))

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Roane Medical Center's affiliation with Knoxville-based Covenant Health becomes official today with the signing of closing documents.

Officials with city of Harriman, the hospital and Covenant Health gathered for a signing ceremony at 2 p.m. today at Roane Medical Center, located at 412 Devonia Street.

Under the agreement, Covenant will take over operation of the medical center and will build a \$50 million hospital near the Midtown exit off Interstate 40. It already owns a medical office building and operates a Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center in Harriman.

Covenant recently announced plans to construct a \$78 million medical office building to house a multi-specialty surgery center and physicians' offices as part of a planned \$150 million expansion of Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. Construction is expected to begin this summer.

Covenant owns four other acute care hospitals in East Tennessee: Parkwest Medical Center, Oak Ridge's Methodist Medical Center, Fort Loudoun Medical Center in Lenoir City and Fort Sanders Sevier Medical Center in Sevierville.

More details as they develop online and in Wednesday's News Sentinel.

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