

How Tampa General Hospital Turned Post-COVID Rehab Demand into Expanded Care Access



Tampa General Hospital (TGH) provided their community with a new leading-edge facility, specialized rehabilitation expertise and improved access to care through their partnership with Lifepoint Health.

The Challenge

TGH's original acute rehab unit resided in their downtown location, which had become increasingly overcrowded. To accommodate service line growth, they needed more space. How could TGH meet the growing patient need and free up vital bed space in the current hospital?

To scale and enhance their rehabilitation service line, TGH needed additional resources, specialized expertise, and access to the latest tools and technology – they needed a partner.

The Solution

TGH partnered with Lifepoint Health to help support the clinical, operational and financial components of expanding their rehabilitation program. TGH was looking for a trusted collaborator with whom they aligned:

- **Mission and values:** It was important that patients, physicians, nursing staff and the community felt a common care philosophy. Having a partner with similar values makes it easy to integrate with the staff and community – allowing for specialized care to be delivered more efficiently.
- **Specialized expertise and proven clinical outcomes:** Patient needs have only grown more complex over the years, and with the impact of COVID-19 those complexities have rapidly increased. TGH needed a partner with experience caring for medically complex patients and who had the tools to generate optimal outcomes no matter the state of the healthcare environment.
- **Access to capital:** The right partner will have access to capital that not only allows the hospital to invest more in

the patient's care journey, but that enables the hospital to build a new facility in a location that is easily accessible to patients, their families and hospital staff.

After evaluating several solutions, TGH entered into a joint-venture partnership with Lifepoint Rehabilitation to build and operate a rehabilitation facility just off the hospital's original campus.

"We wanted a partner that we could not only share some risk with but also leverage their expertise around running a new stand-alone facility," shared TGH President and CEO, John Couris. **"And because of Lifepoint's track record in rehabilitation services, it made a lot of sense to partner with them."**

"There's a lot of structure with Lifepoint, but still a lot of autonomy to do what fits best for this region and this market. That is an important factor when looking at a joint-venture partner," shared TGH Rehabilitation Hospital CEO, Health Higgins.

The partnership proved to be so successful that TGH is now building a second joint-venture with Lifepoint Health.

Leadership Q&A: Meeting Growing Patient Needs Through Partnership

1. How important was the expansion of TGH's services for the community?

Couris: We knew expanding and modernizing our rehabilitation program would be critical for our hospital, as it is a vital component of the entire care continuum and is a huge part of who we are.

Jennifer Morales, Director of Business Development, TGRH: The fact that Lifepoint had such great resources, expertise and knowledge prior to opening the rehabilitation hospital has really allowed us to be successful from day one.





REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

2. What resources did Lifepoint bring to the table for TGH?

Couris: Lifepoint not only brought technology – both clinically and operationally – but they brought quality people and deep knowledge of the rehabilitation space. **These resources allowed TGH to develop an 80-bed rehabilitation hospital.**

Taking our own expertise and combining it with Lifepoint's has helped us more effectively care for our patients and their unique needs.

3. What additional opportunities did this partnership lead to?

Couris: We were really impressed with Lifepoint – their people and their culture – following our rehabilitation partnership, so we decided to approach them with a behavioral health partnership opportunity as well.

The facility will be located on the same campus as our rehabilitation hospital and will have 96 beds with the ability to flex up to about 120 beds.

This development will allow us to provide geriatric, adult and pediatric behavioral health services all within close range of our rehabilitation facility. This is a huge win for the community and illustrates the power of the partnership – that Lifepoint gets it.

4. Would you recommend Lifepoint as a partner?

Couris: I would absolutely recommend Lifepoint as a partner. It's important for us to have a partner that understands our culture and climate, has similar values, and has a commitment to quality, safety, service and clinical outcomes. Lifepoint has all of that.

We look forward to years of a healthy and productive relationship with Lifepoint.

Click here to see how TGH Rehabilitation Hospital's leading-edge freestanding facility brings high-quality, patient-centered care to its patients and community.

Is there opportunity for your hospital to grow its offerings to enhance patient access? Contact us today for a no-obligation assessment of the opportunity in your community.

About John Couris

John D. Couris is the President and CEO of Tampa General Hospital.



As a visionary leader in the healthcare industry, Couris has achieved success through innovation, operational excellence, and strategic collaborations. He is best known for creating an organizational culture that thrives on authenticity, kindness, and transparency, and he believes that focusing on the well-being of his team drives positive experiences for patients.

About Tampa General Hospital

Tampa General Hospital, a 1,040-bed, not-for-profit, academic medical center, is one of the largest hospitals in America and delivers world-class care as the region's only center for Level I trauma and comprehensive burn care. Tampa General Hospital is the highest-ranked hospital in the market in U.S. News & World Report's 2022-23 Best Hospitals and is tied as the third highest-ranked hospital in Florida, with seven specialties ranking among the best programs in the United States.

About Lifepoint Health

Lifepoint Health serves patients, clinicians, communities and partners across the healthcare continuum. Lifepoint's diversified healthcare delivery network extends from coast to coast, consisting of 64 community hospitals, more than 60 rehabilitation and behavioral health hospitals, and 300+ additional sites of care.

Lifepoint Rehabilitation is one of the largest joint-venture and contract managers of hospital-based rehabilitation programs in the nation. With decades of specialized expertise, Lifepoint delivers high-quality outcomes to over 160,000 patients per year at more than 1,000 sites nationwide. Visit LifepointRehabilitation.net for more information.



www.LifepointRehabilitation.net