http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=12756

St. Joseph Hospital Joins Ranks with Mayo Clinic ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP) — A St. Joseph-based hospital group has announced an arrangement with the Mayo Clinic.

Heartland Health said Wednesday it will become part of the Mayo Clinic Care Network.

The Kansas City Star reports the agreement allows patients at Heartland's primary hospital or any of its clinics to receive second opinions or consultations from doctors at the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minn. The second opinions and consultations will be at no added cost and will be handled through the electronic transfer of hospital charts and records.

Dr. David Hayes, medical director of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, said the move allows Mayo to extend its reach in the competitive health care field.

Heartland's primary hospital is Heartland Regional Medical Center, located in St. Joseph.

Associated Press