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—Jessica Pabst
Government Affairs, Illinois & Missouri



SSM Health was started by a core group of Catholic sisters. The sisters ranked where they felt the greatest need existed for patient care and that was how they ended up with the locations that exist today. Currently, two locations are in Illinois, one in Mount Vernon and one in Centralia. Just across the river in St. Louis, SSM Health also operates the world class pediatric center Cardinal Glenn along with St. Louis University. About half of their patient population comes from Illinois.

Their complete system includes 24 hospitals, more than 300 physician offices and other outpatient and virtual care services. They also have 10 post-acute facilities, comprehensive home care and hospice services, a pharmacy benefit company, a health insurance company and an accountable care organization. The non-profit health system has sites in Wisconsin and Oklahoma in addition to those in Missouri and Illinois.

SSM Health is a member of the Illinois Chamber’s Health Care Council. They credit the Health Care Council for keeping them up to date on what is happening in the entire state of Illinois. “The Chamber helps in advocating state-wide issues for us,” Jessica Pabst says. She handles Government Affairs in Missouri and Illinois. “Currently we are working through the new managed care for medication. We are always watching the Medicaid budget and just insuring the rules and regulations allow us to offer patients quality care.”

