

Nick Turkal, MD

President and CEO
Advocate Aurora Health



Nick is the President and CEO of Advocate Aurora Health. Previously, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Aurora Health Care, a not-for-profit health care system based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is one of the nation's leading integrated health systems and Wisconsin's largest private employer.

When Nick was appointed CEO in 2006, he began a shift toward a culture that inspired purpose and centered on patients. Under his leadership, Aurora has slowed cost increases and achieved quality and cost-efficiency levels that exceed other health providers in eastern Wisconsin. One example of this is the single electronic health record that the organization implemented under his leadership, which contributes to reduced errors and readmissions, cost avoidance and better outcomes for patients.

Nick, who continues to practice medicine as a family medicine physician, led the integration of Aurora's 1,800 employed physicians into one medical group, and he has raised Aurora's quality to levels that are best in class and recognized nationally. In recent years, Aurora has outperformed many similarly sized not-for-profit systems, leading to a Moody's Investor Services rating of A2 in January 2017 and an increase from A to A+ in 2016 by Fitch Ratings.

He currently serves on the boards of Medical Solutions, Creighton University and the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce. In 2017, he was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare and one of the 50 Most Influential Physician Executives by Modern Healthcare. He is past chair of the American Hospital Association Health Care Systems Governing Council and of the Wisconsin Hospital Association Board, and past member of the Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin Board.