

Form 990 Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is an Internal Revenue Service Form 990?

A: IRS Form 990 is an annual reporting form that certain federally tax-exempt organizations must file with the IRS. It provides information on the filing organization's mission, programs and finances.

Q: What organizations are required to file Form 990?

A: Most federally tax-exempt organizations, with the exception of churches and state institutions, and all 501(c)(3) private foundations, are required to file Form 990.

Q: What is the purpose of Form 990?

A: The Form 990 provides the public with important information, including financial information, about the filing organization, and is often the only source of such information. It also is used by government agencies to ensure that organizations such as Norton Healthcare are meeting their not-for-profit missions.

Q: When does Norton Healthcare file its Form 990s?

A: Norton Healthcare generally files its Form 990s each November for the preceding calendar year.

Q: What does it mean for Norton Healthcare to be a not-for-profit health care system?

A: As a not-for-profit health care system, Norton Healthcare exists “to provide quality health care to all those we serve, in a manner that responds to the needs of our communities and honors our faith heritage.” This purpose calls for us to be accountable to many groups — including those who grant us tax exemption because of our status as a “charitable, community-oriented organization.” Absent this exemption, Norton Healthcare would not be able to deliver the same level and amount of benefits and services that are so important to the communities we serve.

Q: How is Norton Healthcare different from a for-profit health care organization?

A: As a not-for-profit health care system, Norton Healthcare reinvests its operating margins back into the communities we serve by improving and expanding our health care services; purchasing new technology; upgrading facilities; adding key health care workforce, including physician specialists; and ensuring that care is available to everyone, regardless of the ability to pay. Operating margins are not distributed to shareholders, as they are with a for-profit health care organization.

Q: Why does Norton Healthcare choose to post its Form 990s on its website?

A: Norton Healthcare has a strong commitment to transparency by reporting back to the communities we serve. By posting our Form 990s on our website, we are making them easily available to all of our constituents.

Q: Where can I find more information about Form 990s?

A: GuideStar, an information service specializing in reporting on U.S. nonprofit companies, is an excellent resource at www.guidestar.org/rxq/help/fags/form-990/index.aspx.

Q: What if I have questions about Norton Healthcare's Form 990s?

A: You can call us at (502) 629-8759 or email us at form990s@nortonhealthcare.org.