



P A S O D E L N O R T E  
HEALTHINFORMATIONEXCHANGE

## Physician Factsheet for Health Information Exchange

### **What is the Paso del Norte Health Information Exchange?**

The Paso del Norte HIE is a nonprofit corporation formed to increase access to care, quality of care, and efficiency in providing care, including for uninsured individuals. Members of the HIE plan to work together as a collaborative of major health care providers through the secure sharing of privacy protected health information about patients and the sharing of best practices for the improvement of care.

### **What is the value of sharing information about patients?**

Your ability to diagnose, assess, and manage a patient can be enhanced through historical information about the treatment the patient has received at multiple other facilities such as hospital emergency rooms or other clinics. Access to information electronically may help you more quickly obtain information about new and old patients, avoid duplicating tests, and understand medication and other clinical treatment history.

### **How will it work?**

Paso del Norte HIE is in the development phase. When available, the individual patient record in the database will be continuously updated with patient medical information from all participating providers. The data will be available through a web portal and can be embedded or linked from your Electronic Health Record (EHR) if you choose. Access to the database will be password protected, secure and limited to your designated clinic staff.

### **What is the financial impact to you?**

Participating in the HIE is a way to meet the requirements for Meaningful Use incentives, a Medicare and Medicaid payment to assist you in converting to an EHR. There are no costs or commitments to physicians at this time to sign the attached letter of interest.

### **Why do I need to sign the letter of interest?**

Federal and state funding is available to help our community develop and implement fully connected patient sharing technology. The state uses the letter of interest to track physician interest in specific HIE's. Since the Paso del Norte HIE is in the operational stage, the letter does not imply any commitment. It helps us to document to the state that we are communicating with local partners.

### **How can I take advantage of this data sharing?**

Sign and return the attached letter of interest as a first step. Based on available funding the program will be operational by 2012.

*Participating Partners: City of El Paso Department of Public Health; El Paso County Medical Society; Las Palmas/Del Sol Healthcare; Paso del Norte Health Foundation; Sierra Providence Health Network; Texas Tech University Health Services Center; and University Medical Center of El Paso*

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) are supporting a Local Health Information Exchange (HIE) Grant Program to award grants to new or expanding health information organizations (HIO) or regional health information organizations (RHIO) to partially fund planning, development, and operations of local or regional HIE networks. It is a requirement of this program that such HIOs and RHIO be Texas non-profit corporations in order to be eligible for this grant funding. The vision for statewide HIE in Texas is to support the development of an infrastructure made up of interoperable, electronic health records (EHRs) composed of standardized, structured data elements that are exchanged among authorized health care organizations and providers across secure regional and statewide networks. Additionally, the American Recovery Act and Reinvestment Act, in order to encourage physician and hospital adoption of EHRs, provides incentives for eligible Medicaid and Medicare providers and hospitals to adopt EHRs and to use them to exchange information electronically. To get the maximum incentive payment, Medicaid and Medicare eligible providers and hospitals must make "meaningful use" of the EHRs by exchanging clinical health data across secure networks by January 1, 2012.

**Statement of Interest**

Although this statement of interest does not represent a binding commitment, my [practice/practice organization/hospital/hospital system] would be interested in utilizing the services of the Paso del Norte Health Information Exchange to support the vision for statewide health information exchange (HIE) in Texas and to achieve the HIE meaningful use requirements as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

We look forward to working with the Paso del Norte Health Information Exchange, HHSC, and THSA to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of the Texas health care system through secure, electronic networks in compliance with applicable state and federal privacy laws related to the use and disclosure of individuals' personal health information.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

**Name of Practice:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Practice Type (Circle One):**    Hospital                      Hospital System                      Physician                      Physician Organization

**Name of Physician or Physicians in Organization and License Number:**

Physician Name	Texas Medical Board License #
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_____	_____
_____	_____