



# New Mexico Health Information Collaborative

New Mexico's Health Information Exchange

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center to partner with the New Mexico Health Information Exchange to improve quality of care and patient safety by ensuring providers have access to the patient's medical information from across the state.**

*ALBUQUERQUE—December 14, 2016—* The New Mexico Health Information Collaborative—Statewide Health Information Exchange (NMHIC HIE) today announced it has signed a data provision contract with the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center.

The agreement brings the number of New Mexico hospitals participating in the NMHIC HIE to 19 data providers and 27 signed hospitals overall. The contract with the state's only academic health center covers the 607-bed UNM Hospital in Albuquerque, the 72-bed UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center in Rio Rancho and clinics operated by UNM Medical Group, Inc., the group practice for physicians in the UNM School of Medicine.

UNM Hospital was one of the first institutions to begin submitting data to the HIE many years ago. In an early pilot project they demonstrated its value in reducing redundant testing.

A pilot project of NMHIC HIE's new Healthier Populations system from Orion Health was launched in January 2016 with participation from the emergency departments at UNM Hospital and UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center, as well as the New Mexico Poison & Drug Information Center, operated by UNM's College of Pharmacy.

With the signing of the HIE agreement, UNM Hospitals and UNM Medical Group will have access to medical records from unrelated health care organizations with different electronic health record systems presented as a seamless picture of care from the across New Mexico.

They will also gain access to the national health information exchange through a gateway. The national exchange includes health care organizations from all 50 states as well as the Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense medical systems.

The contract includes a commitment from UNM to expand the data they provide to meet the full transitions of care record requirements as defined by the Office of the National



Coordinator and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Meaningful Use. This demonstrates UNM's commitment to making the right information available at the right time for optimal care.

NMHIC HIE helps providers to deliver safe, high-quality care for New Mexicans by improving care coordination during transitions between health care settings and bringing community leaders and organizations together to use health information to improve population health and wellness.

Patients see an average of 18 different doctors in their lifetime, and the number increases as we age. With so much information in many different locations, health care providers and care coordinators don't always have access to each other's record entries. With the NMHIC Health Information Exchange, a patient's comprehensive history is now available, giving providers a panoramic view of what's going on.

A comprehensive record reduces the patient's burden of having to repeat their health history and potentially to endure redundant procedures, tests or unnecessary treatment. Real time notifications to providers and care coordinators of important clinical events makes proactive treatment possible and offers a new tool for managing patient care.

"The New Mexico Health Information Collaborative looks forward to working closely with UNM to make the vision of perfectly informed health care for New Mexico a reality," said Thomas East, PhD, NMHIC chief executive officer and CIO. "Working together with all health care organizations in New Mexico, we can become leaders in demonstrating the power of interoperability."

David Glass, MD, EMT-P, a resident in UNM's Department of Emergency Medicine, describes instances in which coordinated medical record-keeping helped patients:

"Our team had a patient with severe vaginal bleeding arrive in OB triage. She had received all of her prenatal care at another hospital. Getting access to her records made all the difference. The following day, our team was called down to the ED resuscitation unit for a 37-week pregnant patient from a motor vehicle collision and I was able to get consent, log in and gain access to much-needed prenatal care information because we needed to admit her immediately to our institution."

NMHIC continues to expand and add additional health care organizations. For more information, please visit [www.nmhc.org](http://www.nmhc.org), email [info@nmhc.org](mailto:info@nmhc.org), or call 505-938-9909.

### **About NMHIC**

The New Mexico Health Information Collaborative (NMHIC) is the statewide health information exchange (HIE) network. NMHIC HIE brings together patient information from many health care



organizations with different electronic health record systems and creates a complete and comprehensive real-time patient record.

NMHIC began as a community collaborative in 2004, convened by LCF Research, a non-profit organization. It has led health care improvement initiatives in New Mexico for more than 20 years. NMHIC allows clinicians to exchange information electronically in a secure environment where patient privacy is protected and authorized access is available when and where it's needed – at the point of care. For more information, visit [www.nmhic.org](http://www.nmhic.org).

#### **About Orion Health Inc**

Orion Health is a global company that develops software to drive efficiency in health care and improve health care outcomes. We deliver technology solutions for interoperability, population health management and precision medicine.

Built on an open data platform, our integrated solution helps seamlessly manage all types of health-related data; identify and prioritize patients' needs at a population and individual level; effectively coordinate and manage patient care and proactively drive wellness across the community.

For more information, visit [www.orionhealth.com](http://www.orionhealth.com). Connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

#### **About UNM Health Sciences Center**

The UNM Health Sciences Center is New Mexico's only academic health center and home to the state's only Level I trauma center. It includes UNM Hospitals, UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center, UNM Medical Group, Inc., the UNM School of Medicine and Colleges of Nursing, Pharmacy and Population Health and an extensive research enterprise. For more information, visit <http://hsc.unm.edu/>.

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