



NCHICA to Deploy NHIN Gateway for Mature NC HIO

WNC Health Network

For several years, a health information exchange organization (HIO) has been in operation in the mountains of North Carolina: the Western North Carolina (WNC) Health Network. The 16 hospitals that belong to the WNC Health Network are able to seamlessly share patient clinical information through the WNC Data Link. The community served by this HIO has 750,000 patients in its Medical Trading Area.

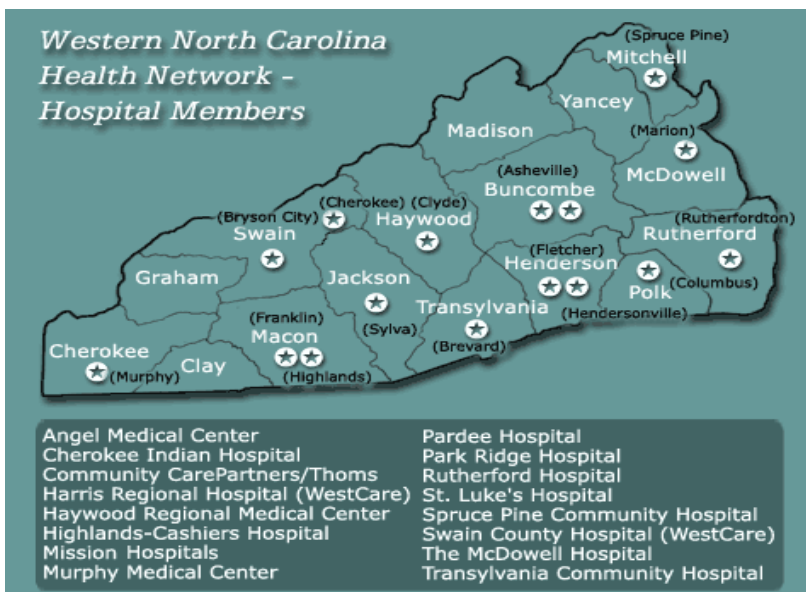
WNC Data Link Highlights:

- Connectivity across 16 hospitals that use many different EMR applications
- Indian Health Service hospital has been actively participating in this community HIO
- 1,500 authorized users and over 6,500 transactions occur monthly
- No central clinical data repository or data warehouse used to store patient data
- Available data include: admission/discharge, lab results, microbiology reports, radiology reports, medications, allergies, discharge summaries, history, physicals and other transcribed reports

NHIN Emergency Implementation on WNC Data Link

Implementing the NHIN Gateway Service Interface Specifications with a mature HIO in North Carolina will provide the following benefits:

- Prepares the foundation for the Asheville Veterans Affairs hospital to exchange information within this Medical Trading Area through the NHIN
- Demonstrates how an established, diverse HIO can become a node on the NHIN
- Complements the State of North Carolina's Strategic and Operational Plans by establishing a shareable, replicable production platform that meets NHIN standards
- Leverages previous investment by WNC Health Network and its corporate partners (MEDSEEK and IBM) to expedite the NHIN connection



ENCOUNTER NUMBERS

In a 12 month period, there were 1,913 veteran visits to a WNC Health Network hospital

1,768 visits to an Acute Care hospital

1,309 visits to an Emergency Department

145 visits to the Inpatient Rehabilitation hospital

Encounter data based on hospital claims systems from October 2008 - September 2009