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Demonstration Shows Health Information Exchanges Could Greatly Benefit Consumers, Doctors

Pilot test shows how network of networks will empower consumers and aid physicians

Washington, DC (December 16, 2008) – The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA) today demonstrated how access to a secure health information exchange (HIE) and the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) could enable consumers to manage their health information and help physicians to provide better care.

NCHICA demonstrated the “Consumer Empowerment: Consumer Access to Clinical Information” Use Case as part of the NHIN Trial Implementations in Washington, DC. The demonstration featured “Susan Clark,” a hypothetical Iraq war veteran whose medical records are spread among a variety of providers in North Carolina and the Military Health System. In the test scenario, “Susan” is able to retrieve her medical records and prescription list from various sources and copy them into her Personal Health Record (PHR). She then imports a list of her physicians into the PHR and sets each doctor’s access permissions, effectively retaining control over her personal health information. The scenario shows how “Susan” can generate a summary of her medical history and make it available to a specific doctor prior to an office visit. The information networks allow “Susan” and her ex-husband “Ralph” to maintain their daughter’s medical records in separate PHRs. “Ralph” can transfer his daughter’s medical records from one PHR to another, and retrieve the medical records “Susan” maintains on their daughter into his PHR.

While the data was simulated, the demonstration relied on a live connection to the North Carolina HIE developed and hosted by IBM, which also connects to the NHIN.

“Today’s test demonstrates that reliable technology exists to enable consumers to securely manage and control their health information,” said Holt Anderson, NCHICA’s Executive Director. “In the future, physicians who are connected to local HIEs and the NHIN will be able to securely access their patients’ medical records, lab results and prescription lists from other sources, thus ensuring more complete information at the point of care. This will result in fewer unnecessary tests and medical errors, which will help lower the overall cost of care for everyone.”

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The NCHICA team includes the following healthcare providers: Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine Associates, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, Morehead Memorial Hospital, Pinehurst Surgical Clinic and Southern Pines Women's Health Center. IBM is providing project management methodology, architecture and the technical hosted solution for the North Carolina HIE. NCHICA is also receiving assistance from Allscripts, Apelon, Capital Technology Information Services, Inc., CapMed, Greenway Medical Technologies, HIPAAT, Initiate Systems, iINTERFACEWARE, LabCorp, McKesson, MEDITECH, NextGen Healthcare, NoMoreClipboard, Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP, SureScripts-RxHub and Williams Mullen.

NCHICA was one of nine organizations in the U.S. awarded a contract by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the NHIN Trial Implementations. In addition to the live demo, the NHIN contract required the development of a business plan to make these types of health information exchanges sustainable, and model agreements for the exchange of medical information between providers. For this work, NCHICA is relying on the expertise of its NC HIE Council and is leveraging the work currently being done on the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) contract with RTI International. "This was truly a team effort, and I'd like to thank the many organizations and volunteers who have helped make this vision possible," said Anderson. "Through our participation in the NHIN and HISPC projects, we have laid much of the groundwork needed for statewide health information exchange in North Carolina."

An alphabetical list of NCHICA's partners and a description of each organization's role in the demonstration is attached. For more information please contact Laura Ksycewski (laura@nchica.org) or visit NCHICA's Web site at www.nchica.org.

About NCHICA

The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit consortium that works to accelerate adoption of health information technology (HIT) initiatives that improve health care in North Carolina. Its over 200 dues-paying members include leading organizations in health care, research and information technology. Working closely with its members, NCHICA fosters partnerships that advance HIT adoption through demonstration projects, educational sessions and collective efforts that seek to place North Carolina in the vanguard of national HIT efforts. NCHICA is located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

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Health Care Provider Partners

Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates, established in 1940, provides comprehensive and innovative neurosurgical options to patients from across the nation. With five area offices in the Charlotte region, 19 neurosurgeons, five physiatrists, licensed physical therapists and more than 200 employees, it is one of the largest neurosurgical practices in the country. As a medical pioneer, the practice strives to help bring further innovation in the field of electronic medical records by taking part in the NHIN project. Mike Cardwell is the project leader at Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates, which is partnering with NextGen Healthcare to participate in the demonstration. For more information, call 704-376-1605 or visit <http://www.cnsa.com/>.

FirstHealth of the Carolinas, a private not-for-profit health care system in the mid-Carolinas, played a lead role by providing a hospital's and patient's perspective in the development of the comprehensive health information network. FirstHealth's chief information officer, David Dillehunt, and director of applications, Linda Briggs, RN, were instrumental in focusing the project around patient privacy and patient-centered control of their health information. NCHICA's project made patient privacy a priority in the application. FirstHealth's contribution enabled the group to study the technical, legal, moral and process issues related to exchanging medical information from the patient's perspective while preserving patient privacy. For more information, visit <http://www.firsthealth.org/>.

Morehead Memorial Hospital (MMH) is a non-profit, community hospital in Eden, North Carolina. MMH is licensed for 108 acute care beds and 134 long term care beds. In addition, the hospital owns seven physician practices and has about 38,000 Emergency Room visits each year. MMH has actively participated in both Phases 1 and 2 of the NHIN project, supplying clinical care data from its test instance of the Meditech health information system. Additionally, Geoff Lawson, Director of Information Systems at MMH, has served as chair of the NCHICA/NCHIE NHIN Project Steering Committee. For more information, visit <https://www.morehead.org/Portal/Main.aspx>.

Pinehurst Surgical Clinic PA is a multi-specialty surgical practice comprised of nine specialty centers located in a state-of-the-art facility in Pinehurst, North Carolina. The practice is committed to providing the finest available services with compassionate and understanding care. Pinehurst Surgical participated in the NHIN project with Allscripts. For more information, visit <http://www.pinehurstsurgical.com/>.

Southern Pines Women's Health Center, located in Southern Pines, North Carolina, is dedicated to caring for women's unique needs, focusing on individualized health care, patient education, and shared decision-making with our patients. Our physicians are board certified in the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology as well as Fellows in the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. SPWHC has partnered with our EMR vendor, Greenway Medical Technologies, on the NHIN project. Mark Rea, IT Coordinator, has served as the SPWHC project manager. SPWHC's role has been focused on the CACI use case, supplying patient documentation to the HIE. For more information, visit <http://www.spwhc.com/>.

Corporate Partners

IBM provided project management methodology, architecture and the technical hosted solution for the North Carolina HIE. IBM partnered with Capital Technology Information Services, Initiate Systems, HIPAAT, Health Market Sciences, iINTERFACEWARE and Apelon in developing their comprehensive technical solution. For more information, visit <http://www.ibm.com/us/>.

Allscripts uses innovative technology to bring health to healthcare and is pleased to support Pinehurst Surgical's participation in the NHIN Project through their use of Allscripts Enterprise Electronic Health Record (EHR). Enterprise EHR allows provider groups to connect with any standard Cross-Enterprise Document Sharing (XDS) Community, including the North Carolina Health Information Exchange (NC HIE) supported by NCHICA. As a result, providers such as Pinehurst Surgical are able to share clinical information with other provider groups, both within the same community and across broader geographies, and have access to patient healthcare information regardless of the origin of care. For more information, visit <http://www.allscripts.com/>.

Apelon is an international healthcare informatics company with unique expertise in data standardization and interoperability. Through diverse terminology solutions and comprehensive consulting services, Apelon helps healthcare, life sciences and national health organizations improve quality, comparability and accessibility of information. Apelon provides data normalization products and services to guarantee that data flowing through the NC HIE network meets federal health data standards. This data normalization technology enables true semantic interoperability across varied data sources in the NC HIE and ensures that information can be consistently viewed, aggregated and analyzed for improved care delivery and public health outcomes. For more information, visit <http://www.apelon.com/>.

Capital Technology Information Services, Inc., a CMMI Level 3 organization, is a leading provider of Clinical Trials Research Management Informatics Solutions, Managed Hosting Services and is at the forefront for comprehensive Translational Informatics Services. CTIS is recipient of the *Computerworld* award for Best Practices in Infrastructure Management for Security, Risk Management and Business Continuity and the NIH Director's award for Information Security. CTIS currently hosts the NHIN prototype environment as a subcontractor to IBM, providing HIPAA & FISMA centric Managed Hosting Services, including Project Management, Network Management, Systems Administration, Database Administration and customer services to participant Regional Health Information Organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.ctisinc.com/default.aspx>.

CapMed was chosen for this project because of its leadership in standards-based data exchange, coupled with PHR expertise garnered from a rich 12-year history. During the demonstration, CapMed exhibited the vital role a secure, electronic PHR plays in the continuum of care for the empowered consumer. Highlights included import of EMR data from a participating HIE provider and medication history data from SureScripts into the PHR; permission-based rules controlled entirely by the consumer; aggregation of audit log information from all NHIEs into the PHR; and publication of PHR data to the NHIE for providers to import into their system. For more information, visit <http://www.capmed.com/>.

Greenway Medical Technologies and its customer, Southern Pines Women's Health Center, have partnered with NCHICA to advance healthcare interoperability through the promotion of healthcare information technology initiatives throughout North Carolina. Greenway collaborates on numerous projects that promote health information exchanges on local, state and national levels. Greenway®, with its single database, fully-integrated and CCHIT Certified® 08 Ambulatory EHR, PrimeSuite® 2008, is dedicated to the creation and sustainability of standards-based interoperability and works tirelessly to bring interoperability from a practical concept into a working model that benefits healthcare in America. For more information, visit <http://www.greenwaymedical.com/>.

HIPAA T provides interoperable, patient-centric consent management and security auditing software for all healthcare environments. Our SOA-based consent engine, *Privacy eSuite*, enables healthcare providers to implement, audit and enforce patient and jurisdictional privacy policy. It empowers patients to control access to sensitive electronic personal health information (PHI) and allows providers to have "break the glass" access to PHI where appropriate. We are proud participants of NCHICA's NHIN efforts. In this project, *Privacy eSuite* works across diverse applications and settings to record fictitious patients' PHI consent preferences. It then determines if a healthcare provider is authorized to access the PHI, based on the recorded directives. For more information, visit <http://www.hipaata.com/>.

Initiate Systems, Inc. is providing the enterprise master patient index (EMPI) for the NCHICA NHIN demonstration. The highly accurate probabilistic matching and linking algorithms in Initiate® solutions deliver a comprehensive single, trusted and complete view of patient's records from disparate sources. In NCHICA's test scenario, the hypothetical customer, "Susan", will have access to accurate and complete electronic records of her medical treatments that were matched through the EMPI from a variety of entities. Initiate enables strategic initiatives such as electronic health records, e-prescribing and clinical portals that help healthcare organizations better serve their customers and communities. For more information, visit <http://www.initiatesystems.com>.

iINTERFACEWARE, a leading provider of HL7 integration solutions, is proud that its Iguana Interface Engine and support were selected by the NCHICA team to help achieve the integration goals of the NHIN project. iINTERFACEWARE's industry-leading Iguana and Chameleon products are deployed in over 6000 locations around the globe. Iguana enables message routing and transformation between medical information systems and devices with a minimum of configuration and no programming. It also allows for

seamless, bi-directional, HL7-to-database communication. The Chameleon HL7 messaging toolkit enables developers to rapidly and graphically add industry-standard messaging capabilities to new or existing healthcare applications using any of the major programming languages. For more information, visit <http://www.interfaceware.com/>.

LabCorp assisted NCHICA's development of a financially viable health information exchange strategy to support ongoing operations past the pilot stage. As a leading independent diagnostic laboratory, LabCorp provided guidance on the content of agreements necessary for laboratory service providers to participate in the exchange of healthcare information between stakeholders. For more information, visit <https://www.labcorp.com/>.

McKesson is the world's leading provider of healthcare supply, IT, automation and connectivity solutions. McKesson solutions are designed to empower healthcare professionals to improve patient safety, reduce variability, and better manage their resources and revenue stream. McKesson partnered with FirstHealth of the Carolinas, enabling their clinicians to access the patient's complete electronic health record, including the NHIN repository, using our Horizon Clinicals® technology. For more information, visit http://www.mckesson.com/en_us/McKesson.com/.

MEDITECH has been the leader in the Health Care Information Systems (HCIS) industry since 1969. MEDITECH's applications unify clinical, administrative and financial information across a health care organization, including acute care, long-term care, home health care and physician practices. We complement the integration engineered into our HCIS with a wide range of standards-based interoperability solutions -- offering customers integration *and* interoperability. We are proud to have Morehead Memorial Hospital demonstrate the ability of the MEDITECH HCIS to send laboratory data to the NC HIE utilizing standards-based interoperability tools. For more information, visit <http://www.meditech.com/>.

NextGen Healthcare is pleased to be contributing to the NHIN project by assisting its customer, Carolina Neurosurgery and Spine Associates (CNSA, and a member of NCHICA), to test NextGen EMR in two scenarios - The Consumer Access of Clinical Information (CACI) use case and the EHR-Lab use case. Through industry standards such as HL7 2.5, Cross Document Sharing, and the Continuity of Care Document within NextGen EMR, CNSA has proven, within the two scenarios, to be able to retrieve data from the exchange and incorporate it within a patient's electronic record, as well as transmit data successfully to the exchange. For more information, visit <http://www.nextgen.com/>.

NoMoreClipboard.com is an online, patient-controlled personal health record (PHR) designed to consolidate medical information in one convenient and secure location for easy retrieval and updates. Subscribers are provided the convenience of seamlessly transferring their medical information, as well as that of their family members and anyone that they care for, onto each physician's specific medical forms. This reduces the need to complete repetitive medical paperwork at each office visit. For more information, visit <http://www.nomoreclipboard.com/>.

Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP partner Trish Markus provided subject matter expertise to the NHIN demonstration on North Carolina release of information laws; reviewed, commented on, and suggested revisions to the DURSA, which governs electronic exchange of health information among NHIN-participating federal agencies, PHRs, and HIEs; reviewed and participated in revising the HISPC IOA Collaborative's interorganizational agreement for point-to-point electronic exchange of health information between two or more entities; and co-chaired North Carolina's HISPC Consent Collaborative, which evaluated which of five consent options for release of information should be afforded to North Carolina patients participating in electronic health information exchange. For more information, visit <http://www.smithmoorelaw.com/>.

SureScripts-RxHub

SureScripts-RxHub gives healthcare providers secure, electronic access to prescription information that can save their patients' lives and reduce the cost of healthcare for all. Available during emergencies or routine care, SureScripts-RxHub's network is used by physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners nationwide to exchange health information and prescribe without paper. The next time you or anyone you know goes for a checkup and your healthcare provider takes out their pad and pen to write a

prescription, take the opportunity to ask them for an e-prescription instead. For more information, visit <http://www.SureScriptsRxHub.com>.

Williams Mullen provides comprehensive legal services to regional, national and international clients. With 325 attorneys and offices throughout North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, DC and London, we deliver innovative solutions to support our clients' diverse business activities. Under the leadership of Roy Wyman, Jr., Williams Mullen has been actively involved in reviewing and commenting on all drafts and versions of the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreements (DURSA) for NCHICA. Mr. Wyman also co-chaired the NCHICA Legal Work Group, which has assisted in drafting the agreements of the North Carolina participants within the NHIN. For more information, visit <http://www.williamsmullen.com/>.