



North Carolina Healthcare Information
and Communications Alliance, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2008

NCHICA Awarded New Use Case for NHIN Trial Implementations
Project to Focus on Expediting Disability Determinations

Research Triangle Park, NC (June 19, 2008) – The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA), a nonprofit consortium that aims to improve health and care by accelerating the adoption of information technology and enabling policies, today announced it has been awarded the Social Security Administration (SSA) *Authorized Release of Information to a Trusted Entity Use Case* by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) Trial Implementation contract.

The purpose of the SSA *Authorized Release of Information to a Trusted Entity Use Case* is to transform the current paper-based system into a more efficient, electronically-enabled process for obtaining and using medical data in the disability determination process. This has the potential to expedite the flow of benefits, helping to alleviate the economic burden to beneficiaries and their families and to increase the efficiency of both the SSA and provider organizations. NCHICA is one of the nine organizations awarded a contract last year to participate in the second phase of NHIN project.

“This Use Case is particularly important to North Carolina because of the significant military population in our state,” said Holt Anderson, Executive Director of NCHICA. “Our goal is to focus on disability evaluations of veterans by the Social Security Administration and to ensure that our returning veterans are getting the help they need in a more timely manner.”

The NHIN Trial Implementations are designed to test the connectivity of disparate health information exchanges and to create the policies, procedures, business cases and collaboratives necessary to support these exchanges. The nine participating organizations have each been assigned Use Cases which must be demonstrated later this year. Besides the new SSA Use Case, the NCHICA team is working on Use Cases for *Consumer Access to Clinical Information* and *Electronic Health Record Lab Results Reporting*.

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 the hosted solution for the NC Health Information Exchange with assistance from Allscripts, CapMed PHR, eClinicalWorks, Greenway, LabCorp, MEDITECH, NextGen and NoMoreClipboard.

About NCHICA

The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit consortium that serves as an open, effective and neutral forum for health information technology (HIT) initiatives that improve health and care in North Carolina. Members include leading organizations in healthcare, research and information technology. Working closely with its members, NCHICA has the unique ability to convene and form partnerships to advance HIT adoption. NCHICA’s leadership in conducting demonstration projects, hosting educational sessions and fostering collective efforts within North Carolina helps position the state at the vanguard of national HIT acceleration efforts. NCHICA is located in Research Triangle Park, NC. For more information, please call (919) 558-9258 or visit www.nchica.org.

Media Contact: Alicia Smith, Zarb Consulting
919.791.0012 – office, 919.522.7010 – direct, alicia@zarbconsulting.com

###