

NEWS RELEASE



Inland Empire HIE

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Inland Empire Health Information Exchange to Launch Health Information Exchange

RIVERSIDE, CA—Hospitals, health plans and doctors representing more than 1 million patients across the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino will “go live” on April 1 with a state-of-the-art health information exchange to share patient records and improve coordination and delivery of medical services.

The self-funded Inland Empire Health Information Exchange (IEHIE), one of the nation’s largest, was established in 2010 by a joint effort between the Riverside County Medical Association (RCMA), the San Bernardino County Medical Society (SBCMS) the Southern California Hospital Association (HASC) and other community healthcare leaders to serve California’s fastest growing regions, with a population exceeding 4.1 million. The Exchange currently includes 48 participating healthcare organizations in the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino and it will continue to add members as the system expands.

“The Exchange is a secure network that will provide participants – from doctors, to laboratories, pharmacies and hospitals - with a patient’s up-to-date healthcare record,” said Dr. Bradley Gilbert, member of the IEHIE Governing Council and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP), which serves low-income patients and anticipates enrollment to reach almost 1 million participants by 2014.

“The goal is to improve patient care, particularly in an acute setting where patients might be receiving services outside his or her normal network,” said Richard Gagnon, Chair of the IEHIE Governing Council and Information Technology Director for Redlands Community Hospital. “We want to make sure the right services are being delivered. Current and complete information are key to achieving that goal.”

“Patients should be able to access their personal healthcare records and track their medical management through the Exchange once the system is fully functional,” said Dr. Tarek Mahdi, MD, member of the IEHIE Governing Council and private physician.

The Exchange launched its pilot implementation in January using Orion Health HIE. This initial pilot group accounts for roughly 2500 hospital beds and 800 physicians.

“We believe that the collaborative manner in which stakeholders have worked to create buy-in, a technology vision, a sustainable funding structure and a strategic plan for long-term growth offers a model that other HIE communities and provider organizations can learn from as they develop their own information exchanges,” said Dr. Richard Swafford, Executive Director of the Exchange.

IEHIE’s mission is to achieve continuity of care in the Inland Empire community by allowing providers and patients trusted, timely and secure access to patient health information. IEHIE is a project of the 501(c)3 Inland Empire EHR Resource Center.

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