

Missouri & Alabama: Bridging patient care between two states using statewide Health Information Exchanges

COLUMBIA, MO., June 10, 2019 – Missouri Health Connection (MHC), one of the largest and technically progressive health information exchanges (HIE) in the nation, and the Alabama One Health Record (ALOHR) network, Alabama’s ever-expanding State HIE, announces their go-live of bi-directional CCD (continuity of care document) exchange of patient health records.

The connectivity and access of a patient’s medical information can be lifesaving most especially when a patient is traveling outside of their own territory. Should a patient from the MHC network be visiting the coverage area within the ALOHR network and seek medical services at a health care organization within the ALOHR network, the patient’s medical information is securely accessible for the health care team utilizing the MHC network. Conversely, if a patient from the ALOHR coverage area is traveling within the MHC coverage area and seeks medical attention, the MHC network provider can quickly and securely view the patient’s record and offer the appropriate medical services.

“Provider, patient safety and empowerment are of the utmost importance to MHC. Connecting the MHC and ALOHR networks allows for patient information to be accessible when and where it is needed,” said Angie Bass, President and CEO of MHC.

This is the second interoperability connection between MHC and ALOHR, as the two state HIE’s connected through the Patient Centered Data Home (PCDH) initiative in December 2018. This connectivity allows a patient’s primary care physician to be alerted if the patient seeks medical treatment in either network. MHC is one of four national “Gateways” in the PCDH network that currently connects 42 HIEs in 26 states, covers over 100,000,000 patients, and will include most of the country in the very near future.

“Consumer engagement, improved outcomes, and access to health care information for all our participants, wherever they may reside, continues to be a foundational cornerstone for Alabama One Health Record®. Completing the HIE bridge to MHC opens new highways of health care continuity and care coordination,” said Gary D. Parker, Director of Alabama One Health Record®.

For ALOHR, this is the latest in a series of integrations to expand interoperable exchange for care delivery and disaster preparedness, particularly in the southeast. Likewise, ALOHR leverages the MHC “Gateway” to extend its exchange capability to those same 26 states within the PCDH network. In addition, ALOHR has direct HIE connections to the Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN) and Georgia Regional Academic Community Health Information Exchange (GRACHIE).

About MHC

MHC is the only secure, statewide, private, non-profit HIE in Missouri. Expanding into the Midwest, MHC provides over 7,000 providers, hundreds of clinics and community health centers and more than 75 hospitals, and health plans with access to comprehensive patient health records for more than 20+ million

patients. MHC's services are designed to support health care providers and payors with a more complete and accurate patient health records. The electronic exchange of health records in the MHC network, enables providers to quickly and securely access and receive real-time comprehensive patient health records resulting in improved quality of health care delivery by coordinating care, reducing preventable errors and avoiding treatment duplication. No matter where a patient goes for care, MHC supports its participating health care stakeholders, by providing an up-to-date, comprehensive, longitudinal health record including clinical and claims data. MHC's service solutions improve health care outcomes and quality by supporting access to aggregated patient information to identify gaps in patient care and provide more clinical data to providers and care coordinators for enhanced clinical decision making.

About ALOHR

Alabama One Health Record® (ALOHR) began in 2010 with the receipt of the ONC HITECH grant. Alabama Medicaid Agency was awarded the grant as the State Designated Entity and established the HIE Advisory Commission to oversee the multi-stakeholder effort. After a successful completion of the phase I implementation of their pilot hospital systems in late 2013, the HIE effort endured a series of challenges and a HIE platform transition that curtailed progress over several years. In November 2017, with a renewed assessment of the potential opportunities, a revamped strategic plan, and the support of the Medicaid's Executive leadership and several of the State largest Health Systems, Alabama successfully re-launched Alabama One Health Record®.