



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Doug Dietzman
Executive Director, MHC
(616) 486-4071
ddietzman@michiganhealthconnect.org

Michigan Health Connect Announces Further Participation with Trinity Health

Southeast Michigan Hospitals to Focus Exchange Efforts through MHC

GRAND RAPIDS, MI- January 2011 - Joining their Ministry Organization counterparts on the west side of the state, Trinity Health's Ministry Organizations in east Michigan have recently announced their intention to actively participate and focus their health information exchange activities with Michigan Health Connect (MHC). The Ministry Organizations in east Michigan are members of the Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, spanning six counties including Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne and include the following hospitals: St. Joseph Mercy in Ann Arbor, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland in Pontiac, St. Mary Mercy in Livonia, St. Joseph Mercy Livingston in Howell, St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron, Chelsea Community Hospital and St. Joseph Mercy Saline.

These hospitals join with Trinity Health's west Michigan Ministry Organizations: Mercy Health Partners in Muskegon, Saint Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids and Battle Creek Health System in Battle Creek

"From its role at the inception of MHC as an unaffiliated collaborative to its current leadership position on the Board, Trinity Health has been and continues to be a very important anchor member of MHC," said Doug Dietzman, MHC's Executive Director. "I'm excited about the opportunity to work closely with the Trinity hospitals on the east side of the state to help them realize their enterprise and community health information exchange goals."

"We're already seeing the benefits of working with MHC in West Michigan. Expanding the participation to include all ministries across Michigan will help Trinity follow through on its ministry commitment to optimize the care for our patients in Michigan," said Doug Fenbert, MHC Treasurer and Trinity Health's executive representative to the MHC Board.

Currently consisting of 35 affiliated hospitals, MHC has developed a strong clinical messaging exchange having connected over 500 provider offices with a combination of electronic results delivery, laboratory ordering, and radiology ordering either directly from the provider's EMR system or the Medicity tools on which the HIE platform is based. These exchange tools are available to providers at no cost as a result of the support and investment of the participating member organizations.

"Trinity Health has taken a leadership position in the development of HIEs in each of the states in which we operate," said Sue Paris, Vice President - TIS Client Services . "We understand the critical role this interoperable exchange will play moving forward to further improve the care of patients and lower the cost of healthcare. We believe Michigan Health Connect provides the best foundation on which Trinity Health can help realize these goals in Michigan."

About Michigan Health Connect

Michigan Health Connect is a nonprofit corporation founded by leading health systems in Michigan to advance the delivery and coordination of patient-focused health care across the state as well as to encourage the adoption of EMR systems in provider offices and facilitate their meaningful use. Current anchor members include Ascension Health, Lakeland Health System, McLaren Health Care, Metro Health, Northern Michigan Regional Health System, Spectrum Health, and Trinity Health. For more information, visit www.michiganhealthconnect.org.