



Quest Physician Update

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Transforming Healthcare-Together.

Dear Colleagues,

November 2010 marks a first for Quest and a first for central Illinois.

After 18 months of thoughtful planning, involving nearly 200 people, across 20 counties, contributing an estimated 664 hours per month, central Illinois stakeholders have agreed to move forward to establish a not-for-profit health Information exchange (HIE). The HIE will serve an estimated 1,300,000 patients. Methodist Medical Center, Decatur Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital in Streator, the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, and OSF Saint Francis Medical Center became the first charter members of the **Central Illinois HIE**. These leaders are providing funding for start-up costs and will hold initial board of director seats. They will establish the policies and procedures governing the HIE. A limited number of Charter Member opportunities are still available.

If you are not certain just what an HIE is or does, think Expedia or Travelocity. The HIE will provide information never available before to treating clinicians. With patient permission, special software securely searches all connected organizations for information about a specific patient and, within seconds, presents a summarized view to the treating medical team.

Sharing medical information between healthcare providers enhances coordination between caregivers and helps make patient care better. HIE helps prevent duplication of services and it helps lower medical errors. It also helps make a complex system less confusing for patients and families. Everyone involved in a patient's care has the information they need. This helps reduce health disparities, reduce paper, and control rapidly escalating healthcare costs.

Organizations that are interested in learning more about the Charter Member opportunity may contact David Miller at 309-251-6491. Thank you for all you do to make patient care better and safer. Together, we are transforming healthcare.

Respectfully,

Gail M. Amundson, MD, FACP