



PAT MCCRORY  
Governor

KEITH WERNER  
State Chief Information Officer

February 5, 2016

**Via U.S. Mail and Email**

Re: North Carolina Health Information Exchange

Dear Participant,

Thank you for leading the way as providers who see the value of interconnectivity between one another to improve the quality, coordination and delivery of health care in North Carolina. As I mentioned in my email last week, I am the recently appointed director of the newly-established NC Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA), and am excited about the future of health care and its integrated use of technology in our state.

As you are aware, the North Carolina Health Information Exchange (NC HIE) will transfer to the Authority on February 29, 2016, as directed in a recently passed state law (S.L. 2015-241, as modified by S.L. 2015-264). The transition to the State is underway, and we are vigorously working to meet the rapidly approaching deadline.

**New Participation and Subscription Agreement Required**

We realize that your organization may have received a new contract for HIE services from the health exchange operated by Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) in December. **As per statute, that contract will end on February 29, 2016.** As part of this transition, the NC HIEA needs all entities to enter into a new Participation and Subscription Agreement in order to continue accessing the HIE Network starting on March 1, 2016. This new Participation Agreement will allow you to be connected directly to the new HIE Network, which means your data will come straight to the State infrastructure **at no cost to your organization.** You may note some differences between your current Participation Agreement and the new Participation Agreement, but the enclosed Agreement is in line with contracts used by other states in conjunction with their HIEs.

It is important to note, however, that although your data will come directly to the State, data may also continue to flow to CCNC and its partner, North Carolina Community Care Networks (N3CN) until June 30, 2016, to facilitate a smooth transition and to fulfill contractual and public health obligations held by CCNC and N3CN. You have the option to choose that data not be sent to CCNC and N3CN, and you can do so by initialing where indicated in Exhibit G of the Participation Agreement. Please also review Exhibit H and the enclosed form letter addressed to CCNC that authorizes NC HIEA to retrieve your historical data.



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### **Changes to Current Connectivity Configuration & SAS Technical Resources**

In addition to a new Participation Agreement with the NC HIEA, this transition will also require some changes to your current connectivity configuration, whether the connection is through a Virtual Private Network or through a Secure File Transfer Protocol. To facilitate the transition, the State and our contractor, SAS Institute, will have technical resources available to you upon receipt of a fully executed Participation Agreement with the NC HIEA. The conversion to the new model will also be free of charge.

### **February 19, 2016 Deadline**

In order to make these technical resources available to you and facilitate the connection to the HIEA Network by March 1, 2016, we ask that you **return the fully executed NC HIEA Participation Agreement to us by February 19, 2016** in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. We understand the brevity of this timeline, but please make every effort to review and execute the enclosed contract as soon as possible. **If we do not receive a fully executed NC HIEA Participation Agreement from you by February 19, 2016, your connection to the HIE Network may not occur by March 1, 2016.** If your systems allow, **please also email an electronic copy of the signed Agreement** in order to expedite the process. You will receive a confirmation email, along with instructions regarding the connection transfer.

### **Contact Information Needed**

Please also note that Exhibit E of the new Participation Agreement includes a place to add contact information for your business, technical and contract administrators. We ask that you please include this information so that the appropriate people in your practice are notified of important NC HIEA information. In order to ease the transition, your staff may be contacted by our contractor, SAS Institute, prior to our receipt of the Agreement. The final connection transfer to the new HIE network, however, cannot be completed until we receive your signed Agreement.

### **Thank You for Your Immediate Attention**

We fully recognize the tight time frame for signing the new Participation Agreement. The aggressive timetable outlined in statute was designed to quickly reestablish the HIE Network as a continually improving, useful and effective tool in the delivery of health care in North Carolina. We appreciate your cooperation as we continue with this transition and improve the quality of health care delivery within the state. Please continue to check our website, **<http://hiea.nc.gov>**, for important information and updates about NC HIEA, including Frequently Asked Questions and contact information.



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The goal of improved health outcomes and care delivery remains at the forefront of our vision, and the transition is the beginning of this groundbreaking process. Thank you for your continued efforts to strengthen North Carolina's health care system. I look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Sincerely,

**Kelly L. Fuller**  
NC HIEA Director



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