Jackson County Department of Public Health

THE JACKSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH JOINS NC HEALTHCONNEX, NORTH CAROLINA'S STATE-DESIGNATED HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE, TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

The Jackson County Department of Public Health recently announced its participation in the state-designated health information exchange, NC HealthConnex. This health information exchange network is being used statewide and will help the Jackson County Department of Public Health share a patient's important health information like drug allergies, prescriptions, medical conditions, and lab and test results with other health care providers with whom the patient has a relationship. This technology is available through the Jackson County Department of Public Health partnership with the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA), housed within the North Carolina Department of Information Technology.

"We're very enthusiastic about this partnership," said Clarissa Ashe, HIPAA Compliance Officer. "Having access to the NC HealthConnex network will help our providers get the information they need to make more informed decisions about our patients' care when they need it."

North Carolina is taking a comprehensive approach to reforming Medicaid and making it more efficient and effective for the 1.8 million individuals receiving Medicaid services. NC HealthConnex will be a critical foundational element of reaching that goal. NC HIEA's secure network – NC HealthConnex - is available to all providers and required providers who receive state funds for the provision of health care services such as Medicaid and the State Health Plan. It links information from separate health care sites to create a more complete health record for individual patients. This record combines health information from the Jackson County Department of Public Health and all of a patient's other health care providers that participate.

Health information exchanges like NC HealthConnex are being built in states and regions across the country and are widely viewed as central to supporting lasting improvements in our nation's health care system. These systems can reduce medical mistakes, improve care coordination, provide better patient outcomes and lower overall health care costs.

For more information about the Jackson County Department of Public Health visit http://health.jacksonnc.org/. The Jackson County NC HIEA contact is Clarissa Ashe, Business Officer and can be reached at (828) 587-8255.

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About the North Carolina Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA) and NC HealthConnex:

In 2015, the North Carolina General Assembly established a state-managed Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA) to oversee and administer the NC Health Information Exchange Network (NCGS 90-414.7). Housed within the NC Department of Information Technology's (DIT) Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC), the NC HIEA operates North Carolina's statewide health information exchange-- NC HealthConnex. NC HealthConnex is a secure, standardized electronic system in which providers can share important patient health information. The use of this system promotes the access, exchange, and analysis of health information to help improve care coordination, quality of care, and enable better health outcomes. Additionally, the legislation requires that health care providers who receive State funds for the provision of health care services (e.g. Medicaid, State Health Plan) connect to NC HealthConnex by certain dates in 2018, 2020 and 2021.

For more information about the NC HIEA, visit nchealthconnex.gov.

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