

SUBJECT: Provider Communication Bulletin FY 1718 QM 02
North Carolina Health Information Exchange Network

TO: Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Network Providers
FROM: Quality Management
DATE: September 27, 2017

In 2015, the General Assembly of North Carolina established a state-managed Health Information Exchange Authority (NC HIEA) to oversee and administer the NC Health Information Exchange Network (NCGS 90-414.7).

The NC HIEA operates North Carolina's state-designated health information exchange, NC HealthConnex, 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. The new law also requires that health care providers who receive state funds (e.g. Medicaid, State Health Plan) to connect to NC HealthConnex by certain dates in 2018 and 2019 in order to continue to receive payments for services provided. (NCGS 90-414.4)

Providers of Medicaid services and those with an electronic health record system must connect by June 1, 2018. Required participation includes:

- Hospitals as defined by G.S. 131E-176(3)
- Physicians licensed to practice under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes
- Physician assistants as defined in 21 NCAC 32S .0201
- Nurse practitioners as defined in 21 NCAC 36 .0801

All other providers of Medicaid and state-funded services must connect by June 1, 2019. Providers that do not receive state funding for the provision of health care services may also connect to NC HealthConnex on a voluntary basis.

Connecting to the Network

To meet the state's mandate, a Medicaid provider is considered "connected" when its clinical

and demographic information pertaining to services paid for by Medicaid and other state-funded health care funds are sent to NC HealthConnex at least twice daily—either through a direct connection or via a hub (i.e., a larger system with which it participates, another regional HIE with which it participates or an EHR vendor). Participation agreements signed with the designated entity would list all affiliate connections.

For more information, please call the NC Health Information Exchange Authority at 919.754.6912 or visit their website at <https://hiea.nc.gov/>.