

HBCH is pleased to introduce Greater Houston Healthconnect (GHH), the region's Health Information Exchange (HIE). Healthconnect is a non-profit organization inspired by the vision of business and community leaders to achieve a decisive gain in health for the region. Specifically, Healthconnect is partnering with area employers to reduce the cost of providing medical benefits while improving the quality and safety of care employees receive. Connecting providers' Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems facilitates the coordination of care across healthcare providers. Better-coordinated care reduces duplicative tests, costly imaging, and hospital readmissions. An actuarial analysis of claims revealed a potential cost savings of \$10,000,000 for a 1,000 person workforce, derived from a reduction in in-patient hospitalizations, duplicative testing and emergency room visits.

The HIE links EHRs from participating Houston area hospitals, physicians and other health service providers such as pharmacy and imaging. Healthconnect does not connect directly to employers, nor request information regarding employees. Rather, the HIE is engaging employers to sponsor the connection of providers that deliver care to their beneficiaries, since the benefits largely accrue to those paying for this care. Healthconnect's infrastructure better informs decisions at the point of care, and is a unique strategy for self-insured employers to reduce the cost of providing medical benefits. Active employer encouragement of Healthconnect adoption by its network of health delivery providers will be needed for employers to realize the intended outcomes of the HIE. One major local employer, and HBCH member, is already sponsoring the connection of its most highly utilized providers to ensure their beneficiaries' care is well coordinated.

Contact Healthconnect to determine if the physicians in your company's network are participating in the HIE. Healthconnect will work with you to enroll those providers so they can begin exchanging information at the point of care, where critical decisions are made concerning diagnosis, treatment and resource utilization.

For further information call 832 564 2599 or email at Robin.mansur@ghhconnect.org