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Maine To Launch Statewide Health Data Exchange Network

Maine health care providers on Wednesday announced that they have raised \$4 million to begin building a statewide electronic health record system aimed at boosting care quality, reducing medical errors and curbing health care costs, the *AP/Portsmouth Herald News* reports (*AP/Portsmouth Herald News*, 1/17).

The not-for-profit group HealthInfoNet is developing the network to connect hospitals and doctors across the largely rural state, *Healthcare IT News* reports.

Maine Health Access Foundation provided \$2 million of the seed money for HealthInfoNet, while the state's four largest health delivery systems and Martin's Point Health Care will provide \$1.1 million for the network (*Monegain, Healthcare IT News*, 1/16).

In March 2007, HealthInfoNet selected 3M Health Information Systems to supply the clinical data repository, master patient index and data dictionary applications, and Orion Health to provide an integration engine, Web portal and library of customizable templates (*Health Data Management*, 1/16).

Proponents of the statewide EHR system estimate that it could save the state \$50 million annually by reducing duplicative and unnecessary tests, procedures, prescriptions and hospital admissions.

Pilot

This winter, the state will launch a two-year pilot demonstration involving more than 2,000 health providers, including 15 hospitals and one-third of the state's practicing physicians (*AP/Portsmouth Herald News*, 1/17).

Health care facilities participating in the pilot include:

- Central Maine Health Care;
- Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems;
- Franklin Memorial Hospital;
- MaineGeneral Medical Centers;
- MaineHealth; and
- Martin's Point Health Care(*Healthcare IT News*, 1/16).

After the pilot, HealthInfoNet likely will be expanded to include other providers (*AP/Portsmouth Herald News*, 1/17).

Readers are invited to send feedback to: ihb@chcf.org