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Orlando Health is Latest Health System to Join Florida's Health Information Exchange
~The network of not-for-profit hospitals will participate in Patient Look-up Service ~

Tallahassee, Fla.— The Agency for Health Care Administration and the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis are pleased to welcome Orlando Health into the Florida Health Information Exchange (HIE). Orlando Health is the most recent addition to the HIE program's Patient Look-Up (PLU) service, joining 52 not-for-profit hospitals, 340 clinics and 34 post-acute care providers.

The PLU service enables health care organizations and their affiliated users (given consent by the patient or a legal representative) to query medical records through a secure connection. By merging smaller, regional networks or "nodes" into a larger, statewide network, the PLU service combines the security of local control with the utility of a statewide exchange. Each participating node maintains its own records, but the information can be requested by other PLU participants at any time for the purposes of patient care.

"Each new participant expands the network by providing another source of health data. This enhances the ability of all participants to effectively use electronic health record technology to improve patient outcomes," said Heidi Fox, Interim Director of the Florida Center for Health Information Policy and Analysis. "Participants in the Patient Look-Up service are also able to share information with authorized participants around the country through the eHealth Exchange."

The ability to securely exchange information between hospitals, other treatment facilities, and individual providers is an integral part of maintaining continuity of care throughout the modern health care delivery system. For example, a physician working in a hospital clinic setting would be able to request lab results from a recently-admitted patient's hospital stay. This type of coordination can greatly reduce the number of duplicate procedures and mitigate the risks of prescribing treatments with an incomplete patient history.

"The Agency congratulates Orlando Health and all Florida HIE participants on their commitment to providing better health care through health information technology," said Liz Dudek, Secretary for the Agency for Health Care Administration. "Joining the Patient Look-up service is a big step toward using the safe and effective exchange of patient data to improve their quality of care."

PLU participants currently include: Atlantic Coast HIE, Bethesda Health, Broward Health, Florida Hospital/Adventist Health System, Martin Health System, Senior Home Care – (an affiliate of Kindred at Home), Strategic Health Intelligence, and UF Health. The Florida Health Information Exchange continues to assist other organizations through the onboarding process.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(AHCAFlorida\)](#).

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