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Better Health Care for all Floridians

ELIZABETH DUDEK
SECRETARY

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Florida has Infrastructure for Secure Exchange of Health Information in Case of a Disaster
- Electronic Health Records play important role in preparedness-

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) has established the necessary information technology infrastructure for the secure exchange of health records with other states in the event of a disaster. Florida is connected with health information exchange state programs in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, West Virginia, Michigan and Wisconsin and agreements for exchange have been established with Arkansas and Virginia.

“We are very mindful of the potential challenges that may exist as a result of relocation during an emergency and the need for providers to have access to health records,” said Secretary Liz Dudek. “The Agency’s participation in the Southeast Region Health IT and Health Information Exchange Collaboration has enabled the sharing of health data across state lines.”

The Agency has contracted with Harris Corporation to build the Florida Health Information Exchange (Florida HIE) that connects participating physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, clinical laboratories and long term care providers as well as health plans and state government agencies allowing them all to use Direct Secure Messaging (DSM). DSM enables the sending of protected health information by secure email. There are more than 4,500 DMS users in Florida and the Agency is continuing outreach to register health care provider emergency contact personnel for use of DSM.

“Treating providers can use DSM to receive the patient’s medical history when it is most needed from the patient’s health plans or other providers,” said Walt Culbertson, Technical Lead, Florida HIE. “Patients can also take steps to protect their own health records and that of their children by saving it electronically.”

To learn more about the Florida HIE, visit www.Florida-HIE.net or visit www.FHIN.net for more on the Agency’s electronic health record initiatives.

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 37 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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