

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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“Connectivity to SHARE was seamless and required little effort from our practice.” –Dr. William C. Patton, MD

Health Information Technology Changing Medicine in East Arkansas:

August 11, 2015, Forrest City, Ark. –East Arkansas Children’s Clinic in Forrest City has experienced first-hand the value of using the Arkansas Health Information Exchange known as SHARE - the State Health Alliance for Records Exchange. This pediatric practice provides medical care for children ranging in age from birth to 21. The staff of two physicians, two nurse practitioners, three licensed practice nurses and a support staff provides care for a patient population of 4,100.

After joining SHARE in the fall 2014 as a participant in the Arkansas Medicaid Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative, the clinic began to use the SHARE web-based portal which allows the medical professionals to view their patients’ health records and SHARE’s secure messaging which allows the clinic to communicate securely with other health care providers including Arkansas Children’s Hospital (ACH).

According to Dr. William Patton, M.D., “Having the pertinent details of active patient problems, labs, and medications without having to search through individual patient notes via fax as we did in the past, improves patient care and illustrates how SHARE can be used meaningfully.” Dr. Patton said the connectivity to SHARE required little effort from the practice and has provided the clinic with the capability of using the key clinical information provided by SHARE to update their patients’ current problem list and document recent diagnoses that occur at ACH. “Once appropriate details about the diagnosis or problem are recorded, such as quality, duration, timing, and complicating factors, the provider adds this to our Electronic Health Record. This allows the details and the diagnosis to be maintained at East Arkansas Children’s Clinic in the patients’ chart,” said Patton who added that the clinic intends to continue to use SHARE to better coordinate patient care with other providers. “SHARE has assisted us by identifying Emergency Department visits and inpatient stays of our patients that then trigger us in to bring the children in within 10 days for follow-up, allowing us to meet the metric for Medicaid PCMH Program,” Said Patton who hopes more Hospitals will join SHARE such as Forrest City Medical Center in Forrest City, Arkansas and Le Bonheur in Memphis, Tennessee.

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About SHARE

The Arkansas State Health Alliance for Records Exchange (SHARE) is a secure, electronic system that allows health care providers, health services professionals and public health authorities in Arkansas to exchange accurate patient medical information in real-time. The Arkansas Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT), created by Act 891 of 2011, operates the interoperable health information exchange (HIE) that gives health care providers access to lab results, immunization records and other vital

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information. Organizations that participate in SHARE serve more than 1 million patients in Arkansas. For more information, visit www.SHAREArkansas.com.