

The Connecticut State Medical Society is excited to introduce **CTHealthLink**, a statewide health information exchange (HIE).

1 *How will CTHealthLink help our state connect for better care?*

- Physicians and other clinicians will be able to **securely share critical patient information** at the point of care, supporting **improved care quality** and **better patient health outcomes**.
- Patients will be able to easily view their medical information from participating providers on **one secure patient portal**.
- Physicians and other clinicians will be able to more easily meet their **quality reporting obligations** under the emerging performance- and value-based payment systems being adopted by federal and commercial health plans.

2 *How do we know CTHealthLink will work?*

The proven HIE technology is already successfully operating in Kansas and similar efforts are under development in Georgia and South Carolina. This will be a “turnkey” HIE for Connecticut.

3 *Who is in charge of CTHealthLink?*

- CTHealthLink began its initial startup in the spring of 2017 with a physician advisory committee appointed by the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS). This advisory committee is currently developing **foundational policies and procedures** to support the HIE infrastructure.
- Once the infrastructure is ready, CTHealthLink will be governed by a diverse Board with representatives of healthcare providers, healthcare facilities, government, consumers, payers, and other stakeholders.
- CTHealthLink will control access to and use of all exchange data, all subject to applicable Connecticut law and federal law, including HIPAA.

4 *Who will participate in CTHealthLink?*

- Patients receive care from **many types of clinicians**, so CTHealthLink will include physicians, nurses, psychologists, and other health professionals.
- Patients receive care in **many locations**, so CTHealthLink will include physician offices, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, behavioral health facilities, federally-qualified health centers (FQHC), and other sites in the exchange.

5 *Will patients have to participate in CTHealthLink? Will they have to pay?*

- Patients can choose to opt out of including their personal health information in CTHealthLink.
- There is no charge for patients to participate in CTHealthLink.
- For patients who authenticate their CTHealthLink information through the patient portal, there is a nominal one-time charge from the CTHealthLink help desk. There is no charge for patients who authenticate at a participating provider’s office or facility.

For more information, please email info@csms.org