For Immediate Release

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM JOINS LOUISIANA HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

BATON ROUGE, LA. – (July 16, 2014) – The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum has announced that University Health System, which includes hospitals in Shreveport and University Health Conway in Monroe, has enrolled as a participant in the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE).

“By enrolling with LaHIE, University Health System soon will be connected with the larger health care community throughout the state, bringing a new level of care, safety and savings to the patients they serve,” said Cindy Munn, Chief Executive Officer of the Quality Forum. “University Health plays an integral role in health care in north Louisiana, and we are excited to provide them with access to a powerful, secure and comprehensive exchange solution. We are very pleased to welcome them to LaHIE.”

LaHIE is the mechanism that allows for the secure exchange of health information among authorized providers and organizations across Louisiana’s health care system to help improve patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes. Benefits of LaHIE include timely access to patient records, improved patient safety, increased security of records, better coordination of care and patient management, reduced health care costs, and improved public health reporting.

Marcus Hobgood, University Health Chief Information Officer, said that LaHIE meets federal requirements for meaningful use. LaHIE is a HIPAA-compliant pipeline that allows meaningful health information to be shared across state lines to make relevant records readily available when other providers need it.

“In addition to meeting meaningful use requirements, participating in LaHIE will allow University Health to provide improved continuity of care for our patients. University Health is excited to provide state-of-the-art technology to enhance patient care,” said Hobgood.

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Dr. Pat Bass III, MD, MS, MPH is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at LSU Shreveport School of Medicine practicing at University Health, and a long-time advocate of electronic medical records. As a physician, Bass is excited that LaHIE offers the opportunity for patient medical information to be available with any other provider in the Health Information Exchange, which will “help them make their [health care] decisions,” he said.

In 2009, the Quality Forum was named as the State-Designated Entity to oversee the planning, development and implementation of LaHIE. The exchange launched in November 2011 in the Acadiana region of the state. LaHIE went “live” in December 2011 and currently, more than 200 hospitals, clinics, physician practices and health care companies across Louisiana are participating in LaHIE. In addition, the exchange now includes more than 725,000 unique patient records and generates more than 32 million transactions per month. For more information and a list of participants, visit www.lhcqf.org.

About University Health System
University Health System is an academic medical center working in partnership with the LSU Shreveport School of Medicine, where internationally recognized faculty physicians and scientists train most doctors practicing throughout the region. With acute care hospitals in Shreveport and Monroe, University Health is a leader in comprehensive medical care. The two hospitals have more than 700 licensed beds, 3,500 employees and nearly $1 billion economic impact to the I-20 corridor of north Louisiana.

About Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum
The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum is a private, not-for-profit organization, dedicated to advancing evidence-based, collaborative initiatives to improve the health of Louisiana residents. Its focus areas include quality measurement and analytics, clinical quality improvement, the patient-centered medical home/care coordination model, Louisiana Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST), outreach/education and health information technology (IT). The Quality Forum is the State-Designated Entity to support health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records and to lead the planning and implementation of the state’s health information exchange. For more information, visit www.lhcqf.org.

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