



LOUISIANA
HEALTH CARE
QUALITY FORUM

PRESS RELEASE

Jamie Davis, Marketing/Communications Coordinator
225 300 4837 ▪ jdavis@lhcf.org

For Immediate Release

HOOD MEMORIAL NOW LIVE WITH STATEWIDE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Baton Rouge, LA – June 11, 2013 – Hood Memorial Hospital, located in Amite, La., is now actively exchanging data via the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE).

LaHIE is the mechanism that allows for the secure exchange of health information among authorized providers and across Louisiana's health care system to help improve patient safety, quality of care and health outcomes. LaHIE is administered by the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, a private, not-for-profit organization that serves as the State-Designated Entity for the development and oversight of the statewide health information exchange.

Hood Memorial, a 25-bed critical access hospital, provides outpatient, diagnostic, preventive and wellness services as well as primary and secondary health care services to residents and visitors in the Tangipahoa, St. Helena and Washington tri-parish area.

"Hood Memorial is dedicated to providing the best medical care for the community it serves, and is committed to meeting the special needs of its patients and their families," says CEO John Neal. "Being connected to LaHIE is an exciting achievement that ensures our physicians and medical staff will have access to the critical information necessary to deliver safe, timely, effective and patient-centered care. We are very proud of our partnership with LaHIE and look forward to using the health information exchange to better serve our patients."

Cindy Munn, Executive Director of the Quality Forum, says, "We are very proud of Hood Memorial's live status with the state's health information exchange. The hospital's ability to share health information through LaHIE enables the facility and its providers to connect with the larger health care community throughout the state and introduce a new level of care, safety and savings to Louisiana patients."

Benefits of LaHIE include timely access to patient records, improved patient safety, increased security of records, enhanced coordination of care and patient management, reduced health care costs and improved public health reporting.

The exchange officially launched in December 2011 with Lafayette General Medical Center and Opelousas General Health System as pilot facilities in the Acadiana region. There are currently more than 130 hospitals, specialty providers, school-based health centers and other health care companies across the state enrolled in LaHIE. Twelve hospitals and specialty providers in Louisiana are now live with the exchange.

For more information about LaHIE, or to view a current list of LaHIE participants, visit www.lhcqf.org, or call 225.334.9299.

About the 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 lead the planning and implementation of the state's health information exchange and to support health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records. For more information, visit www.lhcqf.org.