

# LOUISIANA HEALTH CARE QUALITY FORUM

## INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum (“Quality Forum”), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity, is the official entity, designated by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (“DHH”), to facilitate health information exchange within the state of Louisiana. The Forum is comprised of a dynamic and diverse membership of stakeholders from across the State of Louisiana and includes regional exchanges, health care systems, clinics, employers, public health entities, state agencies, health plans, and consumer advocacy groups.

The Louisiana Health Information Exchange (“LaHIE”) is organized to facilitate health information sharing and aggregation for the purposes of treatment, coordination of care and health care operations in a manner that complies with all applicable laws and regulations including those protecting the privacy and security of health information. The objectives for the LaHIE are to achieve a sustainable value-driven HIE that exchanges secure health information, to facilitate patient-centered meaningful use among stakeholders and support the management of population health.

Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, particularly as it relates to the LaHIE, through this introduction addresses: (1) Nature of Louisiana Health Information Exchange; (2) Purposes; (3) Description of Program; (4) Adoption of Policies; and (5) Change or Termination of Program.

### 1. Nature of Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum and the Louisiana Health Information Exchange

The Louisiana Health Information Exchange is a state-wide health information exchange operated by Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, a Louisiana non-profit organization.

### 2. Purposes

LaHIE is organized to facilitate health information sharing and aggregation for the purposes of treatment, coordination of care and health care operations in a manner that complies with all applicable laws and regulations including those protecting the privacy and security of health information.

### 3. Description of Program

LaHIE facilitates the operation of a Health Information Exchange, a secure, web-based, clinical messaging system and search engine for patient health, demographic and related information. It assists Participants and Authorized Users in locating and aggregating patient data held by multiple health care organizations for the purpose of treatment, coordination of care and healthcare operations in a manner complying with all applicable laws and regulations including those protecting the privacy and security of health information. Exchange services promote efficiency of coordination in care, patient safety and enhance patient health.

## LOUISIANA HEALTH CARE QUALITY FORUM

### 4. Adoption of Policies

The Director of Health Information Technology, in conjunction with LHCQF's Executive Director, is responsible for developing draft policies governing the operation of the Exchange and presenting them for review and recommendation for adoption.

### 5. Change or Termination of Program

LHCQF and LaHIE may make changes to the Exchange or may cease providing the Exchange at any time. Changes to the Exchange that reduce or limit the functionality or levels of service provided shall be made with the prior approval of the Health Information Technology ("HIT") Advisory Council and Board of Directors, unless circumstances beyond LaHIE's control require the change. LHCQF and LaHIE will cooperate fully and use good faith efforts to assist Participants in transitioning from LaHIE to another health information exchange system.