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Castle Medical Center and Hawai'i Pacific Health Become the First Hawai'i Hospitals to Join Health Information Exchange

HONOLULU, Hawai'i (August 27, 2013) – The Hawai'i Health Information Exchange (Hawai'i HIE) today announced that it signed formal data sharing agreements with Castle Medical Center and Hawai'i Pacific Health. Both hospitals will now be able to connect their patients' electronic medical records to the Hawai'i HIE via the Health eNet, a secure, encrypted electronic system for health information exchange.

"These agreements will significantly broaden and enhance information exchange for patient care in communities across the state," said Christine Sakuda, executive director of the Hawai'i HIE. "By utilizing the Health eNet, these major healthcare providers will be able to improve patient care and hopefully manage costs for both the organization and their patients. We applaud Castle Medical Center and Hawai'i Pacific Health for their foresight in recognizing these benefits. As the first hospitals to connect to the Health eNet, their participation is key to increasing the effectiveness of this system and we encourage other providers to follow suit."

"Our efforts to improve cost-effectiveness and to ensure access to quality healthcare for all Hawai'i residents will depend on exactly this kind of collaboration," Gov. Neil Abercrombie said. "I commend Castle Medical Center and Hawai'i Pacific Health for recognizing the value of our state-designated health information exchange and the potential of available technologies to further the transformation of our healthcare system."

The Hawai'i HIE was designated by the State of Hawai'i to develop and implement the Health eNet in order to coordinate healthcare services among different providers through an information exchange. The agreement with Castle Medical Center and Hawai'i Pacific Health sets the stage for the next phase of the Health eNet slated to launch later this fall. At that time, authorized participants, such as healthcare providers who have a treatment relationship with a patient, providers establishing a relationship through a referral or emergency room personnel who may urgently need information about a patient, may send "queries" to the Health eNet to access patient data such as medical histories, lab results and prescribed medications over a secure electronic platform.

Facilitating public health reporting also is planned for the next phase, which will allow the state Department of Health (DOH), for example, to receive information about communicable diseases that may adversely impact the entire community, as required under current state mandates. Using the Health eNet will allow the DOH to more efficiently collect such data from members of the healthcare community.

"This is a significant milestone for Castle Medical Center," remarked Kathy Raethel, president and chief executive officer of Castle Medical Center. "Working with the Hawai'i Health Information Exchange (Hawai'i HIE) means that we are forging a new path for improved patient care that will minimize unnecessary duplication of tests, and will lead to better coordination of patient care in the state of Hawai'i." Raethel added, "As the first hospital in Hawai'i to sign with Hawai'i HIE, we seek to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to quality patient care and service to our community."

"This is what healthcare transformation and affordable care is all about. These agreements will foster secure and appropriate sharing of healthcare information between physicians, hospitals, and clinics – all working together to provide the best care for the community," said Steve Robertson, executive vice president and chief information officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health. The quality of care will improve and costs will be reduced because doctors won't need to reorder diagnostic tests to get information that would be otherwise sitting, inaccessible, at another location."

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About Hawai'i Health Information Exchange

The Hawai'i Health Information Exchange (Hawai'i HIE) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 2006 by leading health care stakeholders in Hawai'i for the purpose of improving health care delivery throughout the State through seamless, effective, and secure health information exchange. In September of 2009, Hawai'i HIE was designated by the State to develop and implement a statewide health information exchange that will ultimately connect to HealthWay (a not-for-profit public-private partnership tasked with overseeing eHealth Exchange, formerly known as the Nationwide Health Information Network Exchange). Hawai'i HIE has a strong and exemplary Board of Directors who are determined to transform the current state of health care in Hawai'i into one that coordinates care, reduces costs for patients and providers, addresses the needs of the aging population, and provides incentives to patients to take a more proactive approach to their health care. For more information about Hawai'i HIE, visit www.Hawai'ihie.org

About Castle Medical Center

Castle Medical Center is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, not-for-profit integrated health care delivery system serving communities in California, Hawai'i, Oregon and Washington. Our workforce of 28,700 includes more than 21,000 employees; 4,500 medical staff physicians; and 3,000 volunteers. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist health values, Adventist Health provides compassionate care in 19 hospitals, more than 150 clinics (hospital-based, rural health and physician clinics), 14 home care agencies, six hospice agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. Visit AdventistHealth.org for more information.

About Hawai'i Pacific Health

Hawai'i Pacific Health is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider, committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and more than 1,600 affiliated physicians. The system is anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital, and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. They have leading strategic initiatives in women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, cancer care and bone and joint services. Hawai'i Pacific Health ranks among the top ten percent of hospitals nationwide in the adoption of electronic health records, with system-wide implementation that allows its hospitals and physicians to offer integrated, coordinated care throughout the state. Learn more at: <http://www.Hawai'ipacifichealth.org>.