



LOUISIANA  
HEALTH CARE  
QUALITY FORUM

## PRESS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

#### **MEDISTAR NOW LIVE WITH LOUISIANA'S HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

**BATON ROUGE, LA.** – (Feb. 27, 2014) – The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum announced that Medistar Home Health, providing home health services across Louisiana, recently became the first such company in the state to go live with the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE).

Medistar Home Health's COO, Gina Creel, credits Medistar's vision of providing superb quality care, promoting effective continuity of care, and reducing hospital readmissions, with its decision to join LaHIE in 2012 and for having worked with LaHIE's leadership since that time to reach this ultimate goal of live participation.

"In our seventh year using point-of-care electronic medical records to improve the quality of care and patient satisfaction, we are confident that our participation in LaHIE will even further enhance our award-winning care transitions and chronic care management services," said Creel.

"LaHIE connects Medistar with the larger health care community throughout the state and introduces a new level of care, safety and savings to patients," said Cindy Munn, Quality Forum CEO. "We are excited that Medistar is now live with LaHIE, and we look forward to providing the company with access to a powerful, secure and comprehensive exchange solution."

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.

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 with Lafayette General Medical Center and Opelousas General Health System as pilot facilities in the Acadiana region of the state. LaHIE went "live" in December 2011 and, currently, more than 180 hospitals, clinics, physician practices and health care

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companies across Louisiana are participating in the statewide health information exchange. For more information and a list of participants, visit [www.lhcqf.org](http://www.lhcqf.org).

**About Medistar Home Health**

Medistar Home Health is a nationally recognized Medicare-certified home health agency, a member of the National Hospital to Home Quality Improvement Initiative, a Premier and Gold Participant in the Home Health Quality Improvement National Campaign and received the Home Health Quality Initiative’s Best Practices Early Adopter and Gold Medal Awards. Named as one of the top home health agencies in the country by HomeCare Elite™ for the past seven consecutive years, Medistar has been serving Louisiana patients in the familiar surroundings of their homes for over 30 years. “Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of our patients, our healthcare partners, and our valued employees as we provide superior quality and passionate care, while adhering to the highest standards of excellence.” To find out more, visit <http://www.medistarhomehealth.com>

**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 supports health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records and serves as the State-Designated Entity to lead the planning, implementation and management of the state’s health information exchange. For more information, visit [www.lhcqf.org](http://www.lhcqf.org).

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