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Minnesota's HIE-Bridge™ Health Information Exchange Goes Live with U.S. Social Security Administration over the Nationwide Health Information Network

DULUTH, MINNESOTA – On September 17, Duluth-based Community Health Information Collaborative (CHIC) officially began exchanging clinical data with the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) over the Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN). CHIC partnered with ApeniMED of Minneapolis to implement the SSA disability determination process with three hospitals in northern Minnesota (St. Luke's, Mercy Hospital, and FirstLight Health System, formerly Kanabec Hospital).

This project allows participating hospitals and clinics to transition from paper-based disability verification to an electronic, automated process over NwHIN, resulting in streamlined processes, faster eligibility, and improved patient care. CHIC's HIE-Bridge™ service transmits a Continuity of Care Document (CCD) to the SSA once a request and signed authorization is received.

Cheryl Stephens, PhD, President and CEO of CHIC said "This is another service offered by CHIC to help its members increase efficiency, reduce costs, and improve the quality of patient care. With this offering, we are even closer to helping our participating hospitals and clinics meet the new Meaningful Use measurements related to electronic clinical exchange."

"This project with HIE-Bridge and the Social Security Administration demonstrates the value of electronic health records, HIEs and NwHIN," said ApeniMED CEO, John Fraser. "It is exciting to see interoperability between HIEs and the SSA gain momentum and continue to work toward improving care coordination and the quality of patient care."

The SSA requests more than 15 million medical records annually and processes more than 3 million disability claims. The nationwide effort to streamline this process is known as Medical Evidence Gathering and Analysis through Health Information Technology (MEGAHIT).

About CHIC

The Community Health Information Collaborative (CHIC) is a 501(c)(3) Minnesota nonprofit corporation and holds a Certificate of Authority to operate as a Health Information Organization (HIO) in the State of Minnesota. Its mission is to leverage information technology to help member organizations save precious healthcare dollars, make healthcare providers more efficient and to provide the foundation for future innovation.

About ApeniMED

ApeniMED is a healthcare IT company headquartered in Minneapolis, MN with additional offices in Seattle, WA, the Territory of Guam, and Washington, D.C. ApeniMED is a global provider of the ApeniMED Platform, a secure, scalable healthcare interoperability platform built upon standards such as NwHIN Exchange and the Direct Project, enabling the interoperable exchange of clinical and administrative data between disparate healthcare trading partners and systems.