

*For Immediate Release*  
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## Central Ohio Hospitals Get Green Light to Join Statewide HIE *COHIE Board Endorses CliniSync*

Columbus - Central Ohio hospitals, health systems and physicians just got the green light to join CliniSync, the statewide health information exchange (HIE) based in Hilliard, Ohio.

The Board of Directors of the [Central Ohio Health Information Exchange \(COHIE\)](#) endorsed [CliniSync](#) today as the preferred HIE provider for the 14-county Central Ohio region served by COHIE.

“The benefits to having a fully operational HIE in a community can be enormous,” said Tim Bangert, COHIE Interim Director. “Providers are able to access critical patient information not only to improve patient care, but also to avoid costly redundancies in testing and other treatments.”

COHIE is one of [seven regional partners](#) in the state that is now assisting 1,368 primary care physicians at the practice level with the adoption of electronic health record systems under a federal grant program managed by the nonprofit [Ohio Health Information Partnership](#) (The Partnership). A total of 6,500 physicians have signed up for services through The Partnership and its regional partners since October 2011. “We recognize that providers and healthcare systems will move down the path to full integration of an HIE at a pace that is appropriate for their unique circumstances,” Bangert said. “What COHIE has done is the due diligence. We have evaluated and understand the details of CliniSync. When the time comes for each organization to connect to an HIE, we feel certain providers can connect into CliniSync with confidence.”

While many hospitals and health systems have been able to share data within their own organizations, CliniSync will allow them to exchange with physicians and hospitals systems outside of their own walls. To date, [70 Ohio hospitals](#) have contracted to join CliniSync and 20 are “live” on the network. Right now, 426 physicians in 90 practices are receiving results and reports directly from their local hospitals. The total number of physicians signed up to receive CliniSync services is 946.

“We’re extremely pleased that Central Ohio providers can join CliniSync as it continues to expand and grow,” said Dan Paoletti, The Partnership’s CEO. “With the ability to exchange patient results and reports quickly and seamlessly, both doctors and their patients will not have to wait as long as they usually do for their test results. And specialists and physicians can now share health information with one another electronically.”

Ohio is at the forefront of health information technology, evidenced by a recent [case study](#) and [award](#) the state received from the Office of the National Coordinator for HIT in Washington, D.C. for collaboration among the state's various entities. When physicians and hospitals fulfill certain requirements for reporting – a system called Meaningful Use – they receive incentive payments for their use of electronic health records. To date, 9,000 Ohio physicians and hospitals received \$409.6 million from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to offset the cost of electronic health records.

The COHIE membership includes: Access Health Columbus, Avita Health System, Berger Hospital, Cardinal Health, Central Ohio Hospital Council, Central Ohio Primary Care Physicians, Central Ohio Trauma System, Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Columbus Medical Association, Columbus Neighborhood Health Center, Fairfield Medical Center, Heart of Ohio Family Health Centers, Huntington, Lower Lights Christian Health Center, Mary Rutan Hospital, Memorial Hospital of Union County, Mount Carmel Health System, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Nationwide Insurance, OhioHealth Corporation, Southeast, Inc., the Medical Group of Ohio, and Wexner Medical Center at The Ohio State University.

COHIE serves Coshocton, Crawford, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Hardin, Knox, Logan, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway and Union counties.

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For questions about CliniSync, go to these [FAQs](#).

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