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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ClinicalConnect Health Information Exchange Names New President

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 15, 2021 – [ClinicalConnect Health Information Exchange](#) (CCHIE), the western Pennsylvania-based electronic system that allows health care providers to securely exchange data to better care for patients, today announced that Phyllis Szymanski has been promoted to president of the organization. She succeeds Christian Carmody, who has led the exchange since its founding a decade ago and now takes a seat on the CCHIE board of directors.

Previously a director at CCHIE, Szymanski has been instrumental in tripling the size of the organization to more than 21 regional health care organizations from the seven founding members in western Pennsylvania, making CCHIE one of the state's largest health information exchanges with over 10 million patient records in its repository.

CCHIE's data exchange has been expanded not just across Pennsylvania, but into neighboring states and nationally, through links to other systems. In October alone, more than 4,400 CCHIE users have accessed more than 16,500 patient records to better care for patients, whose health care information often is stored at multiple providers and not easily connected.

"We are pleased to have an experienced and patient-focused leader like Phyllis, who will continue to advance the CCHIE mission," said Norman Mitry, chairman of the CCHIE board and president and chief executive officer of [Heritage Valley Health System](#). "The success of CCHIE under Chris's leadership has surpassed our expectations. The exchange has proven to be a vital tool in raising the quality of care while reducing unnecessary tests, costs and inconvenience for patients."

By allowing clinicians to have patient-approved access through CCHIE to data on allergies, medications, lab results, hospitalizations and other important medical information from providers on the exchange, caregivers are able to make better treatment decisions. In the past, sharing such data across health systems often required multiple phone calls and faxes, leading to delays and duplication of services.

"We are committed to finding more ways to provide value to clinicians and patients through CCHIE," said Szymanski, who noted that it already has expanded services to include real-time alerts to clinicians when certain patients are seen in the emergency room, or admitted or discharged from a hospital. CCHIE also provides aggregated patient data for health care payors' quality reporting initiatives.

Szymanski has over 20 years of health care information technology experience, including the past eight years at CCHIE. She is an Ex Officio Member of the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Advisory Board and

actively participates in the eHealth Exchange. Her responsibilities at CCHIE have included ensuring the highest levels of privacy and security, relationship building, strategic planning and compliance. She received her M.S. in Information Systems Management from Robert Morris University.

For more information about CCHIE and a full list of providers, visit www.clinicalconnecthie.com.

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