

SAMPLE OVERVIEW: NURSING

One of the goals of a transformed health care system is for near, real-time clinical and demographic data to be made available to *all* health care providers involved in a patient's care so they can securely share health information concerning that patient with each other.

North Carolina's state-designated health information exchange, NC HealthConnex, is a step towards this goal. Created in 2015 by the North Carolina General Assembly, NC HealthConnex helps bridge the gap between disparate systems and health care networks to deliver a holistic view of the patient record, supporting whole patient care. It allows you to access your patients' comprehensive records across multiple providers, as well as review labs, diagnostics, history, allergies, medications and more. This results in decreased redundancy; more efficient, accurate diagnoses, recommendations and treatment; and improved coordination across all levels of care.

As a nurse, you are often the person with the most frequent, ongoing contact with your patients. The fact is, the patient records you have access to likely have missing information regarding individual care. And, as the health care industry moves from fee for service to value-based care, communication and coordination on behalf of patients is even more critical.

NC HealthConnex is a tool that enables you to access missing patient care information. It empowers you to increase operational workflows and efficiencies because you will be able to quickly access your patient's longitudinal patient record. NC HealthConnex allows you to consolidate data feeds and prioritize interoperability, improving patient outcomes through care coordination. At the end of the day, the technology available through NC HealthConnex will allow you to strengthen your collaboration with your patients to truly provide patient-centered care.

State law (NCSL 2015-241 as amended by NCSL 2017-57) requires that all health care providers who receive any state funds for the provision of health care services (e.g. Medicaid, HealthChoice, State Health Plan, etc.) connect and submit patient demographic and clinical data to NC HealthConnex by certain dates in 2018 and 2019 in order to continue to receive payment for services.

- Hospitals as defined by [G.S. 131E-176\(3\)](#), physicians licensed to practice under [Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes](#), physician assistants as defined in [21 NCAC 32S .0201](#), and nurse practitioners as defined in [21 NCAC 36 .0801](#) who provide Medicaid services and who have an electronic health record system shall connect by June 1, 2018.
- All other providers of Medicaid and state-funded services shall connect by June 1, 2019.
- Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs), as defined in [S.L. 2015-245](#), will be required to connect to the HIE per their contracts with the NC Division of Health Benefits (DHB). Clarifies that PHPs are required to submit encounter and claims data by the commencement of the contract with NC DHB.