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Newman Regional Health Providers Improve Care and Revenue Using KHIN and PTN

(Topeka, Ks.; April 5, 2018) Newman Regional Health (NRH), a 25-bed critical access hospital in Emporia, understands the benefits derived from a collaborative working relationship with the Kansas Health Information Network (KHIN). In fact, Tara Orear, NRH's senior ambulatory systems analyst, recently shared their story on a national stage at HIMSS 18, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society's annual meeting.

"Data extracted from a health information exchange can improve quality outcomes, impact quality measures reporting for the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), and result in increased provider reimbursement," Orear said. "Successful value-based care programs reward healthcare providers with incentive payments for the quality of care they deliver."

This is a part of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) new strategy to reform healthcare delivery and payment methods across the country. The Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, known as MACRA, was signed into law in 2015 and changed the way Medicare rewards clinicians for value over volume.

Orear and NRH have worked with KHIN since 2014, collecting patient data and utilizing it at the point of care.

The Practice Transformation Network (PTN), a nationwide initiative assisting physicians in the transition from fee-for-service to value-based performance, provided guidance to NRH in selecting its quality measures for the first year of their MIPS reporting under CMS's Quality Payment Program (QPP). Tracking quality measures, identifying where improvement was needed, and reporting the measures to CMS is part of the QPP. A MIPS calculator assigned NRH a score of 100 percent of the total points possible (including bonus points) for 2017 MIPS reporting.

The work with KHIN assisted NRH providers in receiving payer incentive dollars from claims billed in 2017, Orear said. "Our providers earned from 5-13 percent in quality care incentives resulting in \$241,000 in increased reimbursement for 2017."

More recently, NRH began using KHIN and the HIE to "submit demographics, admissions, discharges, transfers, progress notes, diagnosis and procedure coding, lab results, and medications," Orear explained.

"We now have a more comprehensive picture of patients, which is resulting in higher patient satisfaction scores," she said. The CG-CAHPS (Clinician and Group Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) question asks if "provider knew important medical history." Patient satisfaction scores in that area have increased by 3 percent in the past year. Patient satisfaction scores are another example of data documenting Improvement Activities for MIPS reporting.

About Kansas Health Information Network (KHIN)

KHIN's mission is to improve healthcare quality, coordination and efficiency through the exchange of health information at the point of care utilizing a secure electronic network provided by a collaboration of healthcare organizations. KHIN is a provider-led 501(c)3. Its goals are to ensure providers, patients and communities have long-term access to cost effective, sustainable health information exchange aligned with costs distributed across a broad user base. It also encourages and removes barriers so communities and regions can focus on quality improvement, patient centered medical home and entrepreneurial strategies that effect local health outcomes. For more information, visit www.khinonline.org.

About Newman Regional Health (NRH)

Newman Regional Health is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital providing service 24 hours a day to patients of all ages in Lyon County and most of Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Morris, Osage, and Wabaunsee Counties in East Central Kansas. Newman Regional Health is owned by the people of Lyon County, and governed by a Board of Trustees made up of community leaders and representatives. With a mission to improve health in the community by providing high quality care and a vision to be a valued, trusted partner and regional provider of exemplary services, Newman Regional Health has been awarded by The Chartis Center for Rural Health as a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital in the United States for the third year in a row. For a complete list of the variety of services and specialties provided by Newman Regional Health, please visit www.newmanrh.org.

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