

Doctors to trade e-records

By Mainebiz news staff (01/16/08)

Maine health care officials today announced they have raised more than \$4 million to launch HealthInfoNet, a statewide network that will allow health care providers to share electronic patient records.

Maine will be one of the first states in the nation to build a statewide electronic health information network, according to a press release. HealthInfoNet, based in Manchester, is expected to save an estimated \$50 million annually in healthcare costs related to duplicative tests, prescriptions and admissions.

This winter, more than 2,000 health care providers, 15 rural and urban hospitals and one third of practicing physicians in Maine will take part in a pilot version of HealthInfoNet with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Organizers expect the network, which was first proposed in 2006, will eventually expand to include all of Maine's health care providers. The network is funded in part by donations from the Maine Health Access Foundation, a statewide health care foundation founded in 2000.