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**Local health clinics implement new EHR**

Lincoln County, WA – Lincoln Hospital District 3 has partnered with Providence Health & Services Community Connect to implement a shared electronic health record (EHR) system known as Epic. Epic is the most highly rated EHR available today. The EHR will connect patients and physicians electronically, enabling higher quality, more personalized care throughout the region. Whenever patients are seen at any of the three North Basin Medical Clinics locations in Davenport, Wilbur, and Reardan, or at a Providence facility, health care providers will be able to work from the same comprehensive, continuously updated electronic record, creating real-time access to information. The ability to access patient records online will help physicians provide better coordinated care and improve the quality of health care available across the region. LHD3 implemented an electronic medical system in 2008 and an online patient portal in 2010, but prefer the comprehensive abilities of the Epic system.

“There were gaps in the previous online patient portal,” said Gabrielle Chain, clinics manager for North Basin Medical Clinics. “It wasn’t working for us, and it certainly wasn’t working for our patients. We’re very excited for the new EHR and more convenient online access.”

With the new EHR, patients at North Basin Medical Clinics will be able to have secure, online access to their health record through the convenience of the MyChart patient portal. MyChart will allow patients to use the internet to help manage and receive information about their health, giving them greater participation in their care. Patients will be able request appointments, view test results, communicate with their care team, and even view and pay bills online.

“Transferring our EHR to the Epic system is a big undertaking, but a vital step toward our vision of providing access to comprehensive care through our clinics and accelerate our care coordination program with Providence,” said Tom Martin, Lincoln Hospital District 3’s Chief Executive Officer.

Implementation of the new EHR at North Basin Medical Clinics is scheduled for this week. Once the system goes live, North Basin Medical Clinics will connect with physicians from more than 27 hospitals and 200 clinics from Alaska to Montana and as far south as Southern California. Every facility will have secure and immediate access to the same medical records which will result in maximized efficiency and

highly coordinated care for patients. This will also provide North Basin Medical Clinics the data collection and reporting tools necessary to achieve Medicare Meaningful Use requirements by the 2015 deadline.

Through the transition, Martin states that same day appointment scheduling could be more difficult for the month of June. “We are taking measures to ensure everyone receives the care they need, when they need it,” Martin said. “However, as we learn this new system we’ve allowed for more time for individual patients to ensure all information is correct in the new EHR.” He said this will temporarily cut down the number of patients providers might be able to see in the clinics on a daily basis during the first two weeks of June.

Billing staff for North Basin Medical Clinics are also notifying patients they may receive more than one statement for a period of time for services provided after June 1, 2015. Lincoln Hospital District 3’s Revenue Cycle Director, Darci Linstrum, stated this is due to the transition from the old billing system to the new system as part of EPIC. “Our new system will help us to provide the quality medical services you have come to expect, while better enabling us to connect with other healthcare systems in the region.” Linstrum continued by saying that the billing staff will be available to answer any questions patients might have about their statements. The new statements will look different and have the dates of service printed on them so patients should be able to identify any duplicates.

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*Lincoln Hospital is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital in rural Davenport, Washington. Lincoln Hospital started in 1963 as a grassroots movement by the local community. Since then, it has grown to become a leader in rural healthcare by pioneering programs like Level I Cardiac Care, F.A.S.T. Stroke and the use of robotic technology to provide access to hospitalists and specialists. Lincoln Hospital provides acute, transitional and supporting services care to a majority of Lincoln County and offers convenient out-patient clinic locations in Davenport, Wilbur and Reardan as well as out-patient physical therapy in Davenport. For more information about Lincoln Hospital District 3 go to [www.lincolnhospital.org](http://www.lincolnhospital.org).*