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For Immediate release

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## **CTHealthLink and Connecticut Department of Social Services Reach Agreement to Share Data to Improve Care for Medicaid Patients**

(Hartford, CT, March 8, 2018) Connecticut state officials and CTHealthLink leaders have announced the signing of a data-sharing agreement to facilitate the exchange of health information between Connecticut Medicaid and Connecticut healthcare providers. Through the development of a longitudinal patient record, Connecticut healthcare providers will have a powerful tool to assist in the treatment of Medicaid recipients, as well as a tool to be used to add efficiencies to payment and operations of the state's Medicaid services.

The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) is the administrator of HUSKY Health, the state's Medicaid program which provides public health coverage for eligible children, parents, relative caregivers, elders, individuals with disabilities, adults without dependent children, and pregnant women. CTHealthLink is the physician-led, statewide health information network established in partnership with the Connecticut State Medical Society.

Under the new data-sharing agreement, DSS will work with CTHealthLink to facilitate the exchange of health data from electronic medical records. The benefit to physicians is access to patient information in a timely, secure manner, allowing for improved care coordination. Additionally for DSS, the agreement will allow providers to submit data once that can be shared and accessed by DSS's HIE. This sharing of data has the potential to increase effectiveness and efficiency of care delivered to Medicaid beneficiaries and reduce provider burden associated with data reporting to multiple organizations.

"We are energized to be partnering with DSS," explained Matthew Katz, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the Connecticut State Medical Society, and contact for CTHealthLink. "We know the electronic exchange of medical information helps improve health outcomes by giving physicians the right information at the right time. Care is better when we are connected."

“The ability of doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers to access vital patient information electronically in real time is a tremendous step forward in patient care,” said Department of Social Services Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby. “In fact, safe, secure and timely sharing of electronic health records can mean the difference between the most effective diagnosis and treatment possible, and, for example, the loss of precious time in an emergency. At DSS, we are extremely pleased to be working with the Connecticut State Medical Society and many partners throughout the state on innovative health information technology initiatives.”

#### **About CTHealthLink**

CTHealthLink provides participating physicians with the tools necessary to: access patient information in a timely, secure manner; improve care coordination and patient safety; increase physician/patient communication; engage patients through an online patient portal; utilize patient panel and population health analytics in a meaningful way; effectively transition to a value-based payment model; and support efforts to meet requirements for MIPS/APMs.

#### **About Connecticut State Medical Society**

One of the nation’s oldest medical societies, the Connecticut State Medical Society was founded in 1792 and serves more than 6,000 physicians across the state. The mission of CSMS is to be the voice of all Connecticut physicians; to lead physicians in advocacy; to promote the profession of medicine; to improve the quality of care; and to safeguard the health of our patients.

#### **About HUSKY Health at the Connecticut Department of Social Services**

The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) is the administrator of HUSKY Health, the state’s Medicaid program which provides public health coverage for eligible children, parents, relative caregivers, elders, individuals with disabilities, adults without dependent children, and pregnant women.

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