



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Medical Assistance**

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
Ambassador (Ret.)  
Secretary DHHS

March 26, 2015

Robin Gary Cummings, M.D.  
Deputy Secretary for Health Services  
Director, Division of Medical Assistance

Dear County Director:

Re: "Fostering Health NC": County Access to and Use of NCCCN Informatics Center Provider Portal

The Office of Rural Health and Community Care, pursuant to a grant from the Duke Endowment, is partnering with the North Carolina Pediatric Society and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Divisions of Social Services (DSS) and Medical Assistance (DMA) to provide county DSS foster care staff access to medical data in order to improve the quality of medical care provided to children in foster care. This is known as the "Fostering Health NC" initiative.

Through a contract with the DMA, the North Carolina Community Care Network, Inc. ("NCCCN") has created and currently maintains an electronic patient data exchange system called the "Informatics Center". This contract allows NCCCN to provide access to the Informatics Center in order to better serve the interests of Medicaid patients. This is accomplished by trained staff that can access the Informatics Center and share the information with multi-disciplinary care teams in order to improve the quality and coordination of care. This access is permitted for the following specific purposes, in accordance with applicable law, including HIPAA:

1. Treatment
2. Care Coordination
3. Quality Improvement

The State DSS oversees the State's foster care system. Many of the children within the foster care system require intensive medical care and move from place to place. DSS has determined that giving certain county DSS staff access to this Informatics Center would benefit the children in the foster care program and better ensure their medical care coordination. NCCCN prepared a Technology-Enabled Care Coordination Agreement ("TECCA") for use by the county DSS for this purpose.

Once a TECCA is executed by NCCCN and a county DSS agency (or between NCCCN and a county on behalf of its DSS agency), NCCCN will permit the county DSS to authorize Provider Portal access to individuals whose work for the DSS agency directly involves collaboration with NCCCN and NCCCN Networks to ensure proper care management for children in foster care.

NCCCN or its representatives will provide privacy and security training and materials relating to the DSS agency's obligations under the federal HIPAA Regulations, the TECCA and the use of the portal. Additionally, NCCCN or its representatives will provide IC User support services to answer questions and troubleshoot issues that may arise with the DSS agency's use of the portal.

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)

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We look forward to working with each of you to further this initiative and improve care coordination for children in our foster care system. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Robert Coble, Project Manager for the Office of Rural Health at (919) 527-6474 or [Robert.Coble@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Robert.Coble@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



Wayne E. Black, Director  
N. C. Division of Social Services



Robin Gary Cummings, M.D.  
Deputy Secretary for Health Services  
Director, Division of Medical Assistance



Chris Collins, Director  
Office of Rural Health and Community Care