



Illinois Hospital Association

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Centegra Health System joins Illinois Purchasing Collaborative and Premier Purchasing Partners

NAPERVILLE, Ill. and CHARLOTTE, N.C. (*March 1, 2007*) – The Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) and Premier Purchasing Partners, LP, today announced the signing of Centegra Health System of Crystal Lake, Ill. into the Illinois Purchasing Collaborative (IPC), IHA’s new program aimed at reducing member supply chain costs.

With the addition of Centegra, 22 IHA members are now participating in the IPC which allows members to take advantage not only of Premier’s industry-leading contracts but also the IPC’s collaborative model for enhancing those supplier contracts and negotiating regional contracts.

Centegra, which operates Centegra Memorial Medical Center in Woodstock, and Centegra Northern Illinois Medical Center in McHenry, was formerly with Amerinet.

“After a thorough search of marketplace alternatives, we were sold by the depth, scope and value of the contracts the IPC-Premier partnership offered us,” said Joseph Hurshe, Vice President System Operations, Centegra Health System. “We were especially pleased by the very high match rate with our existing contracts and the fact that we can save substantially without making any product changes. We look forward to working with the IPC-Premier team to drive even greater savings going forward.”

“The IPC is proud to have Centegra Health System as a client,” said Illinois Hospital Association President Ken Robbins. “We welcome Centegra as an integral part of our leadership team, dedicated to moving the collaborative from vision to reality.”

Premier Vice President, Business Development, Rick Salzer said that “the partnership between IPC and Premier complements Centegra’s strategic initiative to build and sustain a highly efficient supply chain system. Add to that the potential savings opportunities created by hospitals around the state working together through the IPC-Premier initiative to access even more competitive pricing, and I believe Centegra will realize significant value from this business relationship.”

The Illinois Hospital Association launched IPC in May as only the second state in the country where a statewide hospital association established a regional aggregating and contracting resource to provide hospital members access to pricing tiers previously unattainable. The IPC is modeled after a highly successful program pioneered by GNYHA Ventures, Inc., a subsidiary of the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), in cooperation with the Hospital Association of New York State. GNYHA Ventures is being retained as a consultant to the Illinois program.

IPC's membership includes Premier-owner hospitals in Illinois: Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Elk Grove Village; Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, Hoffman Estates; Alexian Rehabilitation Hospital, Elk Grove Village; Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana; Central DuPage Hospital, Winfield; Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago; Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, Melrose Park; Ingalls Memorial Hospital, Harvey; Mercy Hospital & Medical Center, Chicago; Methodist Medical Center of Illinois, Peoria; Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center, Chicago; Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center, Chicago; Resurrection Medical Center, Chicago; Saint Elizabeth Hospital, Chicago; Saint Francis Hospital, Evanston; Saint Joseph Hospital, Chicago; Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital Center, Chicago; St. Alexius Medical Center, Hoffman Estates; West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park; and Westlake Hospital, Melrose Park.

About Centegra Health System

Centegra Health System was formed when Memorial Medical Center in Woodstock and Northern Illinois Medical Center in McHenry joined forces. Centegra serves the greater McHenry County region of northern Illinois and is the county's largest employer with over 3,200 associates, 450 physicians, and nearly 500 volunteers. Centegra is ranked among the nation's best hospitals by organizations including *U.S. News & World Report*, Solucient, and HealthGrades. For more information, visit www.centegra.org.

About Illinois Hospital Association

The Illinois Hospital Association, with offices in Naperville and Springfield, represents approximately 200 hospitals and health systems and the patients and communities they serve. Association members range from teaching hospitals, to community hospitals, to rural facilities, to specialty institutions. Since IHA was formed in 1923, its mission has been to strengthen and unite hospitals and make high-quality, affordable health care available to all Illinoisans. To make this possible, the Association works to ensure that adequate resources are available for the state's health care delivery system. With health care delivery going through radical changes, that mission is more important now than ever before. For more information, visit www.ihatoday.org.

About Premier, 2006 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient

Serving 1,700 hospitals and more than 44,000 other healthcare sites, Premier Inc. is the largest healthcare alliance in the United States dedicated to improving patient outcomes while safely reducing the cost of care. Owned by not-for-profit hospitals, Premier operates the nation's largest healthcare purchasing network, the most comprehensive repository of hospital clinical and financial information and one of the largest policy-holder owned, hospital professional liability risk-retention groups in healthcare. Headquartered in San Diego, Premier has offices in Charlotte, N.C. and Washington. For more information, visit www.premierinc.com.