

July 1, 2010

at the Lackawanna Train Station - 45 Lewis Street, Binghamton, NY 13905 607.651.9150 www.sthlny.com

Launch News

STHL Introduces Master Patient Index Service

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The Southern Tier HealthLink health information exchange introduces a new service to local healthcare organizations to help consolidate patient information and reduce duplicate patient medical records. When patients visit different healthcare organizations across the Southern Tier, each organization generates its own medical record for that patient. Sometimes organizations even have multiple records for the same person due to data entry error or limited information during medical encounters. STHL has deployed software to develop the Master Patient Index to help its members identify and consolidate duplicate patient records within their own systems. In addition, the Master Patient Index serves to correctly link records for the same patient across healthcare organizations—a central feature of STHL's health information exchange.

The Master Patient Index is a service that all healthcare organizations which contribute patient data to the health information exchange can take advantage of. Currently, STHL's founding stakeholders Lourdes Hospital and UHS benefit from this service. In the near future other area health care organizations will benefit as well, including Southern Tier Imaging and Cardiology Associates.

To ask about the Master Patient Index service that STHL offers, or to learn about other services provided through the health information exchange, contact STHL at 651-9150.

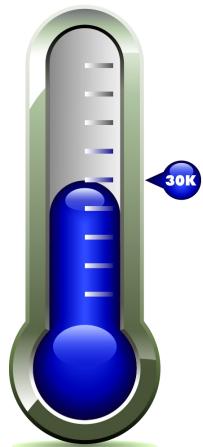
Consent Update

The Power of Yes!

We hear the phrases "Cost Savings" and "Better Healthcare" all the time. At Southern Tier HealthLink (STHL) we want to bring back the real power of healthcare by putting your healthcare where it belongs—in your hands! You can make the decision for better healthcare today. The power is in saying "Yes!"

Checking the "I Give Consent" box on Southern Tier HealthLink's (STHL) consent form allows you to participate in STHL's health information exchange. The health information exchange allows medical care providers to view medical records maintained by other participating healthcare organizations in New York's Southern Tier, and in the future, across New York State.

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Your doctors will have more information about your health than ever before. Access to your medical history, medication lists, allergies and other information can help your doctors make better treatment decisions. It may be that one small thing that leads to a life-saving early diagnosis!

You also have the power to manage access to your records. You can choose whether to allow your doctors in the participating healthcare organizations that you visit to access your records. And, you can change this access at any time. You also have the right for an accounting of which providers have accessed your healthcare records.

Choosing "I Give Consent" on the consent form allows staff at participating practices who are involved in your care to have access to your medical records through STHL's Health Information Exchange (HIE). Choosing "I Deny Consent" denies your health care providers access to your medical records through the HIE, even in an emergency. Choosing "I Choose Not To Consent or Cannot Decide" denies access to your health care providers **except in a medical emergency**.

You can sign up to participate in the health information exchange at your next medical care visit or by visiting STHL's office in the Lackawanna Station at 45 Lewis Street in downtown Binghamton. Learn more about consent and review the form by visiting STHL's website: www.sthlny.com. If you have questions, call STHL at 607.651.9150.

STHL consent forms are now being collected at:

- **Lourdes Hospital**
- **Binghamton General Hospital**
- **Wilson Medical Center**
- **Chenango Memorial Hospital**
- **Delaware Valley Hospital**
- **UHS Medical Group**
- **UHS Primary Care**
- **Dr. Linda E. Fort and Dr. F. Keith Kennedy**
- **Binghamton Gastroenterology Associates**

Your involvement in the Power of YES is important and needed. You will join the more than 30,000 residents in the Southern Tier that have already joined the health information exchange. If you have family members or friends that have not signed up for this yet, spread the word and ask them to say YES to better healthcare for themselves. The Power of YES is in your hands, and that YES brings each of your doctors together as a team working for better healthcare for you!

Welcome John!

Southern Tier Health Link welcomes John Hayek, our newest Project Coordinator. John will be focusing on strengthening community relationships and public relations. He will also be assisting with the Regional Extension Center recruiting effort by visiting practices to educate them about available resources. John has an extensive local history, most recently serving as executive director of the Southern Tier Opportunity Coalition. He received his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Ohio State University. John says that "the work STHL is doing to "connect the dots" with electronic medical records will benefit the community in so many ways. STHL has a great team, and I am happy to be a part of it." John lives in Endwell with his wife, Marge, and their Springer Spaniel, Murphy. You may reach him at 607-651-9150, or jhayek@sthlny.com.



First Friday Art Walk at STHL

Southern Tier HealthLink is pleased to open its doors each month to the community by participating in the First Friday Art Walk, an open house-style evening that not only provides a gallery for local artists but also gives us the chance to talk with healthcare consumers, build visibility at our unique location, and be an active member of our community. Coming Friday, August 6, 6:00-9:00 pm:



Nature and Landscapes By Rita Eddy

Rita Eddy is a lifetime resident of Susquehanna County. She saw the true colors and beauty of the area come to life in her paintings when she started taking art classes in the early 1980's. She works with watercolors, pastels, and acrylics. Rita also has a growing interest in digital photography, and often uses her photos to create paintings and to illustrate note cards. Her work is displayed in local businesses and gift shops throughout the Southern Tier.

Southern Tier HealthLink Can Help You:

- Assure that your doctors get a more complete picture of your health so they can give you the best and safest care possible every day.
- Avoid wasteful and often risky duplicate tests and dangerous interactions with medications you may already be taking.
- Ensure that life-saving information is available to treat you in an emergency.
- Know that your information is secure in a system that can only be accessed by authorized medical personnel, with your consent, and that you can find out who has looked at your medical records.
- Get better tools to manage your own health and the health of your family.
- For more information about consent, go to www.sthlny.com, or call 651-9150.

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STHL is a non-profit organization designed as a partnership which brings together healthcare providers and consumers in Central New York with technology that will improve health care quality, access, and safety while reducing costs.