

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**DATE:** November 11, 2013

**TO:** CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System Board of Directors, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Associates, Physicians, Children's Hospital of San Antonio Foundation, Friends Foundation, and Volunteers

**SUBJECT:** CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System Partners with Healthcare Access San Antonio – Patient Information Sharing

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I am pleased to announce that CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Associates and patients now enjoy the benefits of a partnership between CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health System and Healthcare Access San Antonio (HASA). This partnership allows patient information to be shared securely between hospital systems, Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems, and health care practice groups across South/Central Texas. *On Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. we will host the HASA news conference at the Children's Hospital, main lobby, to highlight the collaborative effort and welcome you to join us if your schedule permits.*

Healthcare Access San Antonio is a non-profit, community health information exchange that facilitates electronic exchange of patient information between physicians, hospitals, labs, pharmacies, and other providers at a number of facilities throughout the state of Texas.

With the support of all of the major providers of care in a 22-county region, patient information will be able to follow the patient and not get bottled up in disparate EMR systems, leading to frustration for everyone.

The ability to share this information will help us save patients' time and provide better, more cohesive treatment across facilities both in our system and with other health care providers.

Key Associate training and education efforts have been in progress to begin alerting patients to this service. Visitors to our facilities will see bold, orange "On the Go" clings on all the patient access sites, as well as coordinating patient information brochures.

Patients have the right to opt out of participation by signing an "Opt-Out Form." A patient's choice to opt out will not be used to discriminate against them and participation in HASA is not a condition for receiving medical treatment.

A patients' sensitive information will not be exchanged through HASA unless the patient signs an Authorization Form or the patient is in an emergency situation where sensitive information must be exchanged. Sensitive information includes HIV/AIDS, mental health, and substance abuse records.

Patients can be assured that their privacy will continue to be handled with the utmost respect and security. It is our responsibility to ensure they can make an informed decision about whether or not the benefits outweigh the concerns.

For more information about HASA, please see the attached FAQ sheet or go to [www.hasatx.org](http://www.hasatx.org).

As always, I thank you for your continued service to our CHRISTUS family, and am excited by the efficiency and satisfaction that this partnership will bring to our staff and patients.

