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Jamestown hospital taps HealthLink

Business First of Buffalo - by [Tracey Drury](#)

The **HealthLink** electronic health care system has expanded into the Southern Tier with the addition of **WCA Hospital**.

WCA becomes the first rural hospital to join the network, which allows hospitals and physicians to share and access patient medical and clinical health information electronically.

The system utilizes a high speed, secure Web interface to allow physicians to view their patients health information. Once patients have signed a consent form, their information and health history will be accessible by multiple providers, essentially following the patient through the health care system.

The goal of the system is to improve the delivery of care, enhance clinical outcomes and control health care costs.

HealthLink, formerly known as the WNY Clinical Information Exchange, is a non-profit organization created by area health care organizations with local funding supplemented through the capital grant program Health Care Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers (HEAL NY).

Besides physician records, the system provides access to lab and radiology reports, prescription history and transcribed reports. Institutions currently posting data to the system include Quest Labs, Kaleida Health, Catholic Health, **Roswell Park Cancer Institute**, **Erie County Medical Center**, **Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center** and Mount St. Mary's Hospital.

WCA Hospital is the first rural community hospital to join. The hospital serves a population encompassing Western Cattaraugus County, Chautauqua County and northwestern parts of Warren County, Pa.