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Windsong Radiology has joined data link

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HEALTHeLINK has added Windsong Radiology Group as a member of the Western New York electronic medical records exchange. It is the first independent radiology practice to join the group, and managers estimate it will make some 300,000 images a year available electronically to participating doctors, clinics and hospitals.

“Radiology reports are a critical diagnostic tool, and having them available to physicians electronically will help improve the quality of patient care and reduce duplicative testing resulting in less radiation exposure to patients,” Daniel E. Porreca, executive director of HEALTHeLINK, said in a statement Tuesday.

“We continue to reach out to other radiology practices in Western New York,” he said, “as the potential volume of radiology reports that can be shared among health care providers is important for the overall vision of the clinical information exchange for our region.”

Windsong has imaging clinics in Williamsville, Amherst, Hamburg, Lancaster and West Seneca.

The electronic records cooperative already includes most of the area’s hospitals, including the Kaleida Health System, Catholic Health System, Erie County Medical Center and hospitals from Niagara Falls to Jamestown.

HEALTHeLINK was created by participating hospitals and by the area’s Big Three health insurance providers — Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Western New York, Independent Health and Univera. It has been funded by grants from the state and federal governments, with the goal of making health care more efficient and less costly.

Patients who have signed the relevant consent forms will make it possible for any participating provider to access their records.