

Modern Healthcare/Modern Physician:

Chicago-area hospital, doc group form partnership

By Andis Robeznieks Posted: May 10, 2011 - 3:00 pm ET

Illinois Health Partners is the name of a new joint venture between 320-bed Edward Hospital in Naperville and DuPage Medical Group, a physician-owned 320-doctor multispecialty group based in Downers Grove.

According to a news release, the two organizations, serving Chicago's southwest suburbs, will remain independent but will collaborate on clinical initiatives to boost quality, control costs and improve the patient experience in jointly managing 100,000 HMO patients. The effort will involve collecting and sharing quality performance-measure data for DuPage Medical's physicians as well as the more than 80 doctors who practice at the hospital and in Edward's own medical group.

"It's going to be seamless to the patient," Pam Davis, president and CEO of Edward Hospital, said at a news conference.

Davis added that the venture will be governed by an eight-member board with four persons each from Edward and DuPage Medical. It will be co-chaired by Davis and DuPage Medical CEO Mike Kasper. Both Kasper and Davis will also serve as board members.

Kasper noted that the medical group will "remain committed" to its other affiliated hospitals. That said, Kasper added that the joint venture could be expanded beyond serving only HMO patients.

"I don't believe there are limits," he said. "There are plenty of opportunities to expand the relationship in the future."