

## **NEW YORK PROVIDERS ARE FIRST TO SHARE VITAL STATEWIDE LAB RESULTS THROUGH HEALTH INFORMATION SHARING**

**OPKO's BioReference Laboratories Partners with Healthix and the New York eHealth Collaborative to Integrate Lab Data of Millions of Patients across New York State**

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Elmwood Park, NJ -- In a historic first for the state of New York, BioReference Laboratories (BRL), an OPKO Health, Inc. company and the nation's third largest commercial clinical laboratory, serving 4 million New York patients, is partnering with Healthix and the New York eHealth Collaborative to integrate laboratory data into the Statewide Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY). This innovation will both inform clinical care for patients, as well as aggregate data for healthcare trends and population management.

The lab results will be shared under a strict regimen of privacy, confidentiality and security. When New Yorkers have to travel between primary care doctors, specialists, and hospitals, the availability of laboratory results is crucial. The 20,000 New York-based physicians that BioReference serves will now have the ability to have existing lab results available to them at the point of care, 24/7, so they can properly stage a patient's condition and avoid unnecessary or duplicative tests. Laboratory results from these physician offices will be also be available for the first time through Healthix and the SHIN-NY.

According to Gregory Henderson, MD, Ph.D., and President of BioReference, "We are proud to be contributing data to the SHIN-NY through Healthix. Our job is to help clinicians take care of patients, and we do that by being a superb lab and by ensuring they have the information they need to effectively and efficiently manage patients. Whether it's helping physicians with using genetic data from our sequencing tests or ensuring they have the results they need for the patients they are treating, BioReference will be a contributor."

Healthix, the largest Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) in the country, and a key partner in the SHIN-NY, serves the greater New York region, including Nassau and Suffolk Counties. With data of over 16 million patients across hundreds of provider organizations, health plans, behavioral health and community based organizations, Healthix is uniquely positioned to generate BioReference lab data wherever and whenever it is needed.

Thomas Check, President and CEO of Healthix, states “With the emergence of value-based payment models, such as the New York State DSRIP program, the relationship between BioReference Laboratories and Healthix could not have come at a more opportune time. Participating Provider Systems – representing clinical and behavioral health organizations, care management programs and others - will have access to crucial laboratory data for managing New York State’s most complex patients.”

BioReference is also New York State’s provider of laboratory services to prisons. It is critically important that lab results for prisoner’s medical and mental health issues are available to physicians treating released prisoners in their home communities. It is also equally important to make labs available to behavioral health specialists who are coordinating patient care with the medical community. Now those results will be available to any authorized doctor or care provider participating in Healthix.

Jim Weisberger, MD, Chief Medical Officer of BioReference, points out that when he and his staff of pathologists interpret diagnostic tests, “It is incredibly useful to have access, with patient consent, to previous studies available through Healthix. The HIE provides a view of prior results from Healthix data contributors: hospital labs, commercial labs and other reference labs sending data to a provider’s EHR. Prior laboratory data is often needed for diagnosis, and trending of these data is necessary for optimization and stratification of therapy for patient management and best outcomes.”

And David Whitlinger, Executive Director of the of New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC), adds “We anticipated the need to work with BioReference Laboratories early on, since the SHIN-NY links healthcare providers across the state so

that care can be coordinated, no matter where the patient has been treated. With the addition of this rich data source, state health entities can better track trends in health care among the population.”

### **About BioReference Laboratories**

BioReference, a subsidiary of OPKO Health, Inc., is the third largest full service clinical diagnostic laboratory in the U.S. providing testing and related services to physician offices, clinics, hospitals, long term care facilities, employers, governmental units and correctional institutions. We offer a comprehensive test list focusing on molecular diagnostics, anatomical pathology, genetics, and women’s health. BioReference Laboratories is a major care provider in New York, providing clinical diagnostics for more than 4 million New York patients a year in partnership with approximately 20,000 New York physicians, including 60 New York State Correctional facilities, 14 Children's Family Services facilities operated by OCFS and an Alcohol Substance Abuse Center run by OASAS. BioReference currently processes approximately 20,000,000 tests for New York patients per year. The company has 76 Patient Service Centers in New York State with 37 in New York City.

### **About Healthix**

Healthix is a key facilitator of health information exchange (HIE) and a partner in the State Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY). Healthix provides a connected network of timely patient information, facilitates care coordination, and promotes cost-effective solutions by leveraging data of over 16 million patients. As the largest regional health information organization (RHIO) in New York State and the country, Healthix supports hundreds of provider organizations, labs and health plans across greater New York.