

For Immediate Release

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Big Sky Care Connect Partners with Industry Leader DrFirst

Helena, Montana — Big Sky Care Connect (**BSCC**), Montana's premier health information exchange (HIE), is partnering with healthcare IT firm **DrFirst** to provide clinicians throughout Montana access to **DrFirst's** extensive medication history information database.

Before the anticipated launch of **BSCC** in late 2020, Montana was just one of two states without a state designated HIE. An HIE is a modern system for improving patient health by saving time and expediting patient care through sophisticated information technology. **BSCC** feeds data from healthcare providers across the state into a centralized digital network which serves as a real-time information system for participating provider, patients, and payors in Montana. As Montana's statewide HIE launches, healthcare organizations of all types throughout the state can participate in the network.

Through their partnership with **DrFirst**, healthcare providers in Montana can search **BSCC** for a patient they are treating to view a concise, yet comprehensive health record that will now include **DrFirst's** thorough medication history information. This partnership fills a critical gap in the data compiled from other participating organizations.

"Montana has over a million residents, and our partnership with **DrFirst** means that healthcare providers can get the most all-inclusive medication history information for any patient in the state," said Jean Branscum, Acting CAO of **BSCC**. "Having this information will help identify and avoid adverse drug reactions, improve medication adherence, and prevent avoidable readmissions."

"Knowing what medication a patient has been taking is crucial to delivering quality medical care," explained **DrFirst's** President, G. Cameron Deemer. According to Deemer, healthcare providers need this information to assess if a current medication may be contributing to a patient's symptoms and to help avoid adverse drug events from drug interactions or allergies. Patients are not always able to share this information because they may be in pain, unable to communicate or remember important details about their current medications.

“**DrFirst** is dedicated to connecting clinicians with the critical information they need at the point of care,” said Deemer. “We are pleased that providers throughout Montana will have access to their patients’ medication history so they can make better-informed care decisions.”

BSCC has recently received signed contracts from more than 25 healthcare leaders throughout Montana who will begin to utilize the HIE to create better health outcomes for all Montanans.

About Big Sky Care Connect

Big Sky Care Connect is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit created in 2018 to respond to the need for a state-wide coordinated health information exchange (HIE) and related services to enhance clinical care in communities throughout Montana. Big Sky Care Connect serves to facilitate timely and secure access to clinical information between various member healthcare organizations and engage in other activities to improve and promote the public health and quality of health care in Montana in a cost-effective manner. Big Sky Care Connect is governed by a board of directors made up of physicians and healthcare executives from around the state. For more information about Big Sky Care Connect, email information@mtbscc.org or contact BSCC at 406-443-4000.

About DrFirst

Since 2000, DrFirst has pioneered healthcare technology solutions and consulting services that securely connect people at touchpoints of care to improve patient outcomes. We create unconventional solutions that solve care collaboration, medication management, price transparency, and adherence challenges faced in healthcare. We unite the Healthiverse—the interconnected healthcare universe—by providing our clients with real-time access to the information they need, exactly when and how they need it, so patients get the best care possible. DrFirst solutions are used by nearly 300,000 healthcare professionals, including more than 100,000 prescribers, nearly half of the EHRs in the U.S., and more than 1,400 hospitals in the U.S. and Canada. To learn more, visit www.DrFirst.com and follow @DrFirst.

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