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SAFE HEALTH was conceived in October 2003, when three of the country's top health care organizations seized an opportunity to work together to improve clinical outcomes, patient safety and the quality of health care delivery in central Massachusetts.

OUTCOME — Fallon Clinic, Fallon Community Health Plan and UMass Memorial Health Care entered into a long-term partnership to develop a regional health information organization (called *Central Massachusetts Health Information Organization*) and the technology (called *SAFE Health*) to support the secure exchange of health information.

CHALLENGES FOR REGIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION ORGANIZATIONS

- *Collaboration among health care stakeholders*
- *Technical barriers*
- *Funding*
- *Adoption by physicians*

WHY SAFE HEALTH IS UNIQUE?

- Technology developed in-house
- Partnerships in place
- Physicians are involved in the business and technology design
- Federated technical architecture with no central data repository
- Data will be integrated into physicians' existing information systems

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Funded in large part by Fallon Community Health Plan, SAFE Health also received a \$1.4 million grant from NIH and AHRQ. With this additional funding, SAFE Health will be accessible to over 1,500 physicians affiliated with Fallon Clinic and UMass Memorial by 2006. SAFE Health will then support the CMHIO, which will include a broader network of physicians, hospitals and ancillary providers.

- Proof of concept complete
- Pilot to launch October 2005
- CMHIO expansion efforts underway

Visit www.safehealth.org for more information.