Rebecca Sykes
Sr. Vice President & CIO

1701 Mercy Health Place
Cincinnati, OH 45237

MERCYHEALTH

Lauren Choi, MA., JD
Senior Advisor & Director of Stakeholder Engagement
Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

Dear Ms. Choi:

At Mercy Health, we share the principle that to achieve an open, connected care for our communities, we all have the responsibility to take action. To further these goals, we commit to the following principles to advance interoperability among health information systems enabling free movement of data, which are foundational to the success of delivery system reform.

1. **Consumer access:** To help consumers easily and securely access their electronic health information, direct it to any desired location, learn how their information can be shared and used, and be assured that this information will be effectively and safely used to benefit their health and that of their community.

2. **No Blocking/Transparency**: To help providers share individuals' health information for care with other providers and their patients whenever permitted by law, and not block electronic health information (defined as knowingly and unreasonably interfering with information sharing).

3. **Standards**: Implement federally recognized, national interoperability standards, policies, guidance, and practices for electronic health information, and adopt best practices including those related to privacy and security.

Mercy Health is committed to reducing the barriers of care that restricted data exchange often creates. Our goal is to make healthcare easier for patients and providers, and having access to medical data when and where care is being delivered is critical. In 2015 alone we exchanged millions of records electronically in 49 states with more than 780 hospitals, and over 21,000 clinics. We will continue to work toward more efficient data exchange on regional, state, and national levels.

Sincerely,

 [signed]

Rebecca Sykes
Sr. Vice President Operations Support & CIO