Overall Description
Iowa and Nebraska, along with many other states, have seen a surge in the alignment of hospitals into health systems. Nebraska’s growth in health systems is more recent while Iowa has had a history of large state based systems for many years.

IOWA

Basic Contact Information
UnityPoint Health
Mercy Health Network
http://www.mercyhealthnetwork.com/about/services_main.shtml
University of Iowa Health Alliance
http://www.uihealthalliance.org/uiha/

Arthur J. Spies, Sr Vice President, Member Services
Iowa Hospital Association
spiesa@ihaonline.org
Phone Extension: 314

General Description
Iowa's two largest systems include UnityPoint Health, formerly Iowa Health System which began in 1993, and Mercy Health Network, created in 1998 through a joint operating agreement between Trinity Health and Catholic Health Initiatives. A third initiative is led by University of Iowa called University of Iowa Health Alliance which includes the Mercy Health Network, Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids, Genesis Health System in Davenport and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, Inc. in Waterloo. The state of Iowa Medicaid has signed agreements with the ACOs developed by University of Iowa Health Alliance and UnityPoint Health.

Information from the Iowa Hospital Association indicates that over 50% of the hospitals in Iowa are associated with these major alliances. In addition, about two thirds of the small hospitals in Iowa are owned or managed by a larger hospital in one of the six largest systems. Approximately 60% of the physicians in Iowa are employed. Twenty percent of the CAHs and rural hospitals are still independent and generally sustainable while all CAHs are concerned about potential loss of cost based reimbursement.
NEBRASKA

**Basic Contact Information**
Omaha World-Herald - [http://omaha.com/article/20131201/LIVEWELL01/131209944/1694](http://omaha.com/article/20131201/LIVEWELL01/131209944/1694)
Uninet Healthcare – [www.uninet.com](http://www.uninet.com)

Laura J. Redoutey, FACHE
President, Nebraska Hospital Association
(402) 742-8142
lredoute@nebraskahospitals.org

**General Description**

Late 2013 saw a flurry of system activity in Nebraska. late 2013, nine large hospitals across Nebraska aligned to create the Regional Physician Network. In the Regional Physician Network, the hospitals remain independent, but have formed a legal entity to allow insurance contracting. Included in the Regional Physician Network are 2 of the 3 large hospitals in Omaha - Nebraska Medical Center and Methodist Health System. The 15 year old, Alegent Creighton Health created 16 hospital clinically integrated UniNet Healthcare Network has been actively reaching out to physicians in Kearney, Lincoln and Grand Island and Omaha. UniNet leadership members include Catholic Health Initiatives representatives.

The Premier, Inc/Prairie Health Ventures development of a rural value based payment initiative would create an additional alliance of hospitals and physicians.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principles Addressed:</th>
<th>Likes:</th>
<th>Barriers:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve Health - yes</td>
<td>Creates coordinated approach to the delivery of services</td>
<td>Large system strategy vs. a rural, independent strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide Access - yes</td>
<td>Moves towards a more value based model</td>
<td>Possibly creates more narrow networks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encourage Collaboration – yes</td>
<td>May allow for more leverage for reimbursement of services</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pursue Quality - yes</td>
<td>Might provide efficiencies in system delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote Efficiencies and Value - yes</td>
<td>Creates alliances among hospitals and physicians</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Embrace Technology - yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reimbursed Fairly – possibly</td>
<td></td>
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Last updated: May 2014