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From the Phoenix Business Journal:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2016/10/03/arizona-care-networks-new-ceo-plans-to-acquire.html>

Arizona Care Network's new CEO plans to acquire physician groups

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Arizona Care Network's new CEO Dr. David Hanekom is looking to grow the Phoenix-based provider network statewide.

The network currently has 4,726 doctors and ancillary providers and 14 hospitals across 1,002 locations in the Phoenix area.

But there are many rural hospitals and physicians who could benefit from the clinically integrated network, he said.

"The network has grown by 800 physicians in 2016 alone," he said, adding that he expects to add another 1,000 providers next year.



Dr. David Hanekom, CEO of Arizona Care Network

Arizona Care Network was created in 2012 by Dignity Health and Abrazo Community Health Network. It later added Phoenix Children's Hospital's Phoenix Children's Care Network to the network, but without ownership.

Hanekom said it would be too soon to give ownership to rural hospitals invited into the network.

"At this time, the financial risk associated with accountable care is significant," he said. "I don't believe personally that the rural and smaller providers in Arizona should or can take significant financial risk in accountable care organization arrangements. But I would not rule that out in the long term."

Since forging its first commercial contract with UnitedHealthcare in May 2014, ACN now has seven contracts.

The network currently has 155,192 covered lives.

"I would like to get to about 250,000 by the end of 2017," he said.

Hanekom joined Arizona Care Network in April, moving from North Dakota, where he was chief medical officer and vice president of medical management of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota. That's where he designed and implemented the nationally acclaimed MediQHome Quality program for the state.

He also had worked as an internal medicine physician and director of Chronic Disease Management for Fargo, North Dakota-based MeritCare Health System. While there, he also developed and implemented the system's first inpatient Palliative Care Unit.

A native of Cape Town, South Africa, Hanekom received post-graduate training in family medicine at the Medical University of Southern Africa. He gained additional training in internal medicine at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences.

For a closer look at accountable care organizations in Arizona, [click here](#).

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