

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Online community health assessment available through October**

*Eau Claire, Wisconsin – September 24, 2014.* What's needed for a healthier Chippewa Valley? You.

A coalition of public, private and nonprofit health organizations is conducting an online health survey to identify the most pressing health issues facing area residents. Starting Oct. 6, community members are encouraged to complete a [14-item assessment](http://bit.ly/CHNA14) available at <http://bit.ly/CHNA14>.

The assessment will be available throughout October. Surveys also will be available at all public libraries in Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties or by calling 715-579-5962.

The Chippewa County/Eau Claire County Community Health Improvement Project is a collaborative venture involving municipal and county health departments, as well as local health care facilities and nonprofit organizations. Survey results will indicate areas where resources should be directed to improve residents' health and well-being. Coalition members will work in concert to address these needs, thereby reducing duplication of efforts and improving regional impact.

While municipal and county health departments have long-standing statutory requirements to conduct community health assessments, such surveying has only become mandatory for nonprofit hospitals through the 2012 Affordable Care Act.

Coalition members include the Chippewa County Department of Public Health, Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP), Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Eau Claire Healthy Communities, Marshfield Clinic, Mayo Clinic Health System, Sacred Heart Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital and United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley.

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