



2009: Health Information Exchanges in the United States

Introduction

Many states are engaged in efforts supporting health information exchanges through the facilitation and/or creation of health information exchange organizations such as regional health information organizations (RHIOs) or statewide health information exchanges.

What is a Health Information Exchange?

A Health Information Exchange (HIE) is an electronic movement of health-related information among organizations utilizing nationally recognized standards and policies.

Why build HIEs?

The ability to exchange health information electronically is the basic and critical capacity of data accessibility and data sharing that is the foundation for improving healthcare in the United States. HIE makes all relevant patient information available where it's needed, when it's needed, and by whom it's needed.

This increased availability of relevant health information through HIE:

- ✚ Provides a key building block for improved patient care quality and safety
- ✚ Provides the means to reduce duplication of services with a resultant reduction of healthcare costs
- ✚ Facilitates reduced operational costs by enabling automation of many (currently) manual administrative tasks
- ✚ Enables the integration of sick (illness) care with well care
- ✚ Stimulates consumer education and involvement in their healthcare process

Who is involved in building and running an HIE?

There are multiple types of organizations involved in HIE and a variety of governance models. Some examples are listed below:

- ✚ State-led HIE efforts
- ✚ State-sponsored public/private partnerships
- ✚ Community-sponsored private initiatives
- ✚ Health plan and hospital system-wide initiatives

Where can I find examples of HIE organizations?

There are many active HIE organizations across the country. The examples below represent varied geographic areas and operating models.

- ✚ Ohio - HealthBridge www.healthbridge.org
- ✚ Indiana - Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE) www.ihie.com
- ✚ Vermont - Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc (VITL) www.vitl.net
- ✚ Tennessee - CareSpark www.carespark.com
- ✚ New York - BronxRHIO www.bronxrhio.org
- ✚ Massachusetts www.mahealthdata.org/ma-share
- ✚ Utah - Utah Health Information Network www.uhin.com
- ✚ Michigan - SE Michigan Health Information Exchange (SEMHE) www.semhie.org



Additional Resources

- ✚ HIMSS HIE Informational site: http://himss.org/ASP/topics_rhio.asp
- ✚ HIMSS HIE Tools and Resources site: http://www.himss.org/ASP/topics_FocusDynamic.asp?faid=141
- ✚ HIMSS *HIELights* Electronic Newsletter Information:
http://www.himss.org/ASP/topics_FocusDynamic.asp?faid=156
- ✚ HIMSS HIE Roundtable (member only roundtable):
http://www.himss.org/ASP/topics_FocusDynamic.asp?faid=235
- ✚ HIMSS HIE Volunteer workgroups site:
http://www.himss.org/ASP/topics_hie_committees.asp?faid=178&tid=33
- ✚ HIMSS Advocacy site (including healthcare reform, Economic Stimulus, HITECH information):
<http://www.himss.org/advocacy/>
- ✚ State level consensus project site: <http://slhie.org/>
- ✚ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Health Information Technology resource site:
http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1204&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=2&mode=2&in_hi_userid=10741&cached=true

Inquiries

If you have any inquiries or want to learn more about the electronic health information exchange and HIMSS activities with HIE, please contact the Healthcare Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS) today! We welcome your request to learn more.

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