


HIMSS
HIMSS RHIO CONNECTION e-Newsletter
Index Listing

[RHIO & HIE News](#)

ARIZONA

[Arizona Hospital to Use Grant for RHIO Development](#) Yuma Regional Medical Center (YRMC) will use an Arizona Government Information Technology Agency grant to create a RHIO to enable health information exchange among healthcare providers.

CALIFORNIA

[California Healthcare Foundation releases study on open source software](#) Open Source Software: A Primer for Healthcare Leaders offers open source as a solution to integration challenges. Industry perspective, comparison to proprietary software, impact on EMR systems and RHIOs are included.

[California Seeks Health Clinics for Statewide Telemedicine Network](#) The California Telehealth Network is seeking applications from clinics interested in participating in a program to create a statewide telecommunications infrastructure aimed at improving rural residents' access to medical services.

[CalRHIO Provides Funding to Safety Net Organizations](#)

[CalRHIO Receives \\$1M for EMRs](#) The California Regional Health Information Organization will receive \$1 million to build an electronic medical records system in the state.

[CalRHIO sets 2006 agenda:](#) Organization preparing guidance documents and other key e-health projects.

[Former NASA astronaut named CEO of CalRHIO:](#) Dr. Donald Holmquest brings legal and medical experience.

[HP Joins CalRHIO to Build Country's Largest Statewide HIE](#) CalRHIO announced today that HP has agreed in principle to join Medicity, Inc., and Perot Systems Corporation in creating the country's largest statewide health information exchange (HIE) utility service.

[Inland Empire RHIO formed:](#) Organizations represents a provider base of over 4,000 physicians.

[Long Beach ERs Benefit from NHIN Grants](#) A trial run for a new program created to speed up the process of patient care is getting underway at several emergency medical facilities in and around Long Beach.

[Q&A with CalRHIO President and CEO Don Holmquest, MD, JD, PhD](#) The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) announced it will endorse and support a statewide health information exchange system currently being developed by the California Regional Health Information Organization (CalRHIO).

[RHIO formation discussions take place in San Diego:](#) Hospital CIOs and medical groups in attendance for meeting.

[Santa Cruz HIE Passes Milestone](#)

[Santa Cruz RHIO reaps ROI for more than 700 users:](#) Interoperability part of the network from day 1.

[Snapshot: Health Insurance: Can Californians Afford It?](#)

COLORADO

[RHIO launched in 8 months:](#) Nonprofit Quality Health Network (QHN) funded through local healthcare groups.

DELAWARE

[Delaware Health Care Commission's Health Information Network awarded \\$24.5M contract to vendor, Medicity for Statewide HIE:](#) Planned six-year project starts with a few hospitals, physicians' offices, and a clinical lab network.

[The Delaware Health Information Network \(DHIN\) is going live this week.](#) DHIN reports it is the first implementation of a statewide health information exchange (HIE).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[Collaborative for Healthcare Information Technology to develop network prototype:](#) Funding to be secured through providers' commitments.

[DC health centers launch RHIO](#) Primary Care Association and six community health centers launch a RHIO with secure real time exchange of patient medical data at six community health centers.

[District of Columbia Primary Care Association Selects Microsoft Amalga to Improve Patient Care for the Underserved](#)

[Medicare projected to be insolvent by 2018:](#) Medicare administrator says Congress should cut provider payment increases and increases drug premiums for higher-income beneficiaries.

[Pioneer of E-health dies:](#) Dr. Tom Ferguson was an advocate for medical consumers since the 1970s.

[Washington Electronic Health Network Launched](#) Healthcare leaders in Washington, D.C. are launching a six-clinic electronic network designed to eventually be used at all district hospitals, practices, pharmacies and clinics.

FLORIDA

[AccessEscambia received \\$330K from AHCA to create electronic information network.](#)

[Big Bend RHIO and stakeholders discuss web portal at Healthcare Roundtable](#) Healthcare Roundtable forum is held to address occupational needs of the local healthcare community from a 2007 survey.

[Big Bend RHIO selects vendors for project:](#) Cogon tapped for data integration/aggregation and Innovations for e-prescription and other software.

[Florida HIE bill lacks funding amid statewide budget cuts](#) A Florida house bill providing matching grants and no interest loans to develop statewide HIEs approved but not funded.

[Funding is Waning for HIEs in Florida](#) According to the *Miami Herald*, Rep. Denise Grimsley, a Lake Placid Republican, sponsored a bill providing matching grants and no-interest loans to help develop a statewide health information exchange in Florida.

[South Florida Building HIE](#) The South Florida Health Information Initiative (SFHII) is ready for data exchange.

[Tampa Bay RHIO begins fundraising campaign:](#) RHIO received state grant but reaching out for private funds and in-kind contributions.

[Tampa Bay RHIO to Execute First DoD State HIT Partnership](#) Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) recently announced the formation of a partnership to pursue an interoperable network for sharing electronic medical information.

GEORGIA

[Blue Cross and Kaiser will utilize EHR:](#) Members will receive personal health records in August-September.

IDAHO

[Idaho and Nebraska Team with Axolotl to Provide Secure Statewide Electronic Health Information Exchange](#)

INDIANA

[IHIE Instrumental in Assisting Indiana Flood Victims and eHealth Support Center](#)

[Indiana Governor Selects HIMSS Chair Elect Christian to Serve on IHIC Board - November, 2007](#)

[Indiana HIE Expanding](#)

[Indiana HIE Increasing in Users and Value-Added Service:](#) The Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE) released its 2007 Annual Report detailing milestones over the past year.

[Indiana HIE Receives \\$1.7m Grant:](#) The Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE) announced a significant milestone related to progress of its Quality Health First (SM) program.

[Indiana HIE to merge medical data, hopes to reduce healthcare costs:](#) Participating physicians can get reports assembling patient information from various sources.

[Quality First Program launched by Indiana HIE:](#) Program to help improve quality and consistency of patient care.

KENTUCKY

[LouHIE Seeks Health Information Technology Firms](#) The Louisville Health Information Exchange, Inc. (LouHIE), a nonprofit community organization based in Louisville, Ky., announced the launch of an eight-week e-health research initiative intended to assess the readiness of 1.2 million consumers, their healthcare providers and related health information product and services (HIPS) firms to support a community-wide health record banking system.

[Louisville Health Information Exchange \(LouHIE\) plans patient enrollment up to 500,000:](#) LouHIE Director says higher number of patients cuts enrollment fees and encourages participation.

[The Louisville Health Information Exchange recently completed an eight-week e-health research initiative](#) intended to assess the readiness of 1.2 million consumers, their healthcare providers and related health information product and services (HIPS) firms to support a community-wide health record banking system.

LOUISIANA

[Health Care Redesign Collaborative plans to redesign health care for poor and uninsured:](#) Greater New Orleans served through increased use of technology and 'medical home' concept.

[Louisiana Governor Boost HIT Funding](#) The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals announced today Gov. Bobby Jindal's budget priority for improving health care through investment in health information technology.

[Louisiana Health Information Exchange \(LaHIE\)](#) has developed an online portal that will let physicians affiliated with different hospitals exchange patient data.

[Louisiana Moving Ahead on Health IT with Several Grant Programs:](#) Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals awarded a \$15.9 million grant.

MAINE

[Maine HIE on the Horizon](#) Healthcare leaders in Maine are working on a demonstration project that they hope will lead to a health information exchange in the state in 2008. HealthInfoNet is still trying to raise \$6 million to fund the demonstration.

MARYLAND

[Collaborative for Healthcare Information Technology to develop network prototype:](#) Funding to be secured through providers' commitments.

[Community Leadership: The Cornerstone of a Solid RHIO Foundation](#) RHIOs cannot succeed without the full and enthusiastic participation of key stakeholders.

[Maryland CareFirst Invests \\$1.5M in Two EHR Initiatives](#) CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield in Maryland is investing more than \$1.5 million in two electronic health record initiatives that officials say could lead to a larger, statewide health information exchange.

[Medicare projected to be insolvent by 2018:](#) Medicare administrator says Congress should cut provider payment increases and increases drug premiums for higher-income beneficiaries.

[New Tool Aims to Prevent Medical Errors](#) Maryland-based [U.S. Pharmacopeia](#) (USP) has introduced a new drug safety tool designed to help patients, caregivers, pharmacists, physicians and others avoid medication errors that may occur because of drug names that look alike and/or sound alike.

[Pioneer of E-health dies:](#) Dr. Tom Ferguson was an advocate for medical consumers since the 1970s.

MASSACHUSETTS

[Massachusetts communities implementing pilot for EMR software in physicians' offices:](#) BCBS has made \$50M pledge, plans to link community with merging with MA-SHARE RHIO.

[Massachusetts RHIO - An Example for the Nation](#) Massachusetts' regional health information organization (RHIO), MA-SHARE (Simplifying Healthcare among Regional Entities), is poised to be an example for the nation after four years and \$50 million.

MICHIGAN

[Michiana Health Information Network \(MHIN\) selected Axolotl:](#) Axolotl's e2 technology will be used in N. Indiana and SE Michigan for secure data delivery to physicians.

[Michigan Awards \\$4.5 Million in HIT Grants](#) The Michigan Departments of Community Health (MDCH) and Information Technology announced more than \$4.5 million in funding that will create a statewide infrastructure for healthcare information exchange and streamline the sharing of medical information throughout the state.

[Southeast Michigan \(SEMI\) Electronic Prescribing Proven to Reduce Medical Errors in Michigan](#) Electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) significantly reduces medication errors, according to data released last week by the Southeast Michigan e-prescribing Initiative (SEMI).

MINNESOTA

[Health Department received 1.3M grants from the state's e-Health initiative to implement EHR in rural areas.](#)

[Minnesota Department of Health Awards Grants to Collaboratives](#) In response to Governor Pawlenty's e-Health initiative, the 2006 Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million to support the adoption of electronic health records in rural and underserved areas of the state.

[Minnesota Rural Community Leading the Country in EHRs](#) Winona Health, the town's only hospital, and physicians share a common electronic health record for every patient in the community.

[Minnesota's Community Health Information Collaborative](#) Minnesota-based Community Health Information Collaborative (CHIC) has selected ZixCorp's Email Encryption Service to serve as the initial infrastructure for its new information exchange initiative.

MONTANA

[Montana HIE Awarded Federal Grant](#) The Health Information Exchange of Montana (HIEM) will be built using a three-year, \$540,000 Rural Network Development Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

NEBRASKA

[Idaho and Nebraska Team with Axolotl to Provide Secure Statewide Electronic Health Information Exchange](#)

NEW MEXICO

[New Mexico's Goals for HIE Presented at World Healthcare Congress:](#) New Mexico Health Information Community (NMHIC) is developing an HIE.

NEW YORK

[\\$52.9 M in grants awarded to 26 RHIOs across the state:](#) Funding provided under HEAL NY legislation.

[\\$105M in Grants Available for New York RHIOs](#)

[Final Round of Health IT Grants for RHIOs Available in NY](#) The final round of the grant program, established in the Healthcare Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers (HEAL NY), will be worth a total of \$52.9 million.

[Greater Rochester RHIO Envisions a Patient-Centered HIE](#) The Greater Rochester RHIO (gRHIO) is moving forward as part of New York State's effort to create an improved health systems infrastructure.

[Greater Rochester RHIO hires ED:](#) Group funded with 4.4M grant last fall.

[Greater Rochester RHIO Up and Running](#) After more than 18 months of planning and preparation, local healthcare professionals and business leaders this week will open the door to a virtual clearinghouse for patient medical records, the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle reports.

[HEAL NY Phase One Winner Establishes HIE with e-prescribing and Diagnostic Data Exchange](#) HealthLink, the Western New York Clinical Information Exchange started infrastructure deployment for the timely and accurate electronic exchange of clinical information among their regions healthcare providers, insurers and other medical professionals.

[New York HIE to receive up to 1.5B in federal funding](#)

[New York RHIOs share \\$4.4 M in state grants to go develop EMR:](#) Funds part of \$52.9M awarded previously and included in June 2006 HIMSS RHIO Connection Newsletter

[NYU Medical Center received 300K grant from NIH to form NYC RHI network:](#) Funds are from National Library of Medicine.

[State of New York ponders RHIO accreditation](#) The New York state is considering accrediting its regional health information organizations.

NORTH CAROLINA

[HIE Lays Foundation for Longitudinal EMR in Western North Carolina](#)

[ONC awards \\$500 K to AHIMA's Foundation of Research and Education:](#) State level best practice information collected will assist in developing a framework. There will be a conference and other information distribution methods for the study's findings.

[Western North Carolina Health Network Increasing in Members and Services](#) The Western North Carolina (WNC) Health Network has evolved from smaller networks and alliances and now includes 39 hospitals, 13 health departments and Mountain AHEC.

[Western North Carolina Health Network, the 1st RHIO in the state will link 16 hospitals:](#) Implementation will involve IBM and AccessPT will add 16 hospitals to the already existing four.

OHIO

[HIE Formed for Rural Ohio](#) Twenty healthcare organizations in Southeastern Ohio have formed the Appalachian Health Information Exchange (AHIE) to facilitate the coordination of health information technologies.

[Ohio's Growing HIEs](#)

[Ohio Urged to Require Health Plans to Join RHIOs](#) Ohio lags behind neighboring states—including Kentucky and West Virginia—in the coordination and development of health IT and exchange efforts, according to a new report from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. To address this issue, the Institute and other groups recommend the state require health plans to join RHIOs.

OREGON

[Oregon Committee to Provide HIE Recommendations](#) Oregon Governor Kulongoski signed an Executive Order on March 27th creating the Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee (HIIAC).

[Oregon RHIO Plans on Hold](#) After more than a year and \$530,000 spent in planning, efforts to bring a regional health information organization to Portland, Ore., were put on hiatus for the summer.

PENNSYLVANIA

[Geisinger Health begins RHIO with two hospitals:](#) The RHIO will use Vignette's software tools and the system is expected to take three years to automate.

[Governor Rendell Signs Executive Order Creating Pennsylvania HIE](#) The HIE is a framework that will give healthcare providers improved access to clinical data and lead to safer and more efficient patient-centered care.

[Pennsylvania Governor Request Recommendations on HIEs/EHRs](#) The Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative (PAeHI) presented two white papers to the Governor Ed Rendell's Office of Health Care Reform that provide a

framework for the adoption of health information exchange, electronic health records, and e-prescribing in the state

[Philadelphia HIE Chooses IT Services](#) Main Line Health, a five-hospital health system serving Philadelphia, Pa. announced today that it has signed an agreement with MobileMD to implement its Health Information Exchange (HIE).

[Progress with NE Pennsylvania RHIO:](#) EHR system planned and \$1M in state matching funds approved.

[University of Pittsburgh Medical Center \(UPMC\) and vendor dbMotion partner on interoperability model:](#) \$84M initiative for secure access to integrated patient information.

RHODE ISLAND

[Rhode Island issues \\$20m bond to create health information network.](#)

SOUTH CAROLINA

[Statewide HIE project for over 4 M on track:](#) Over 4 M consumers in S. Carolina will be served.

TENNESSEE

[AT&T Expanding Tennessee's HIE](#) AT&T Inc.'s first statewide health information exchange, established in Tennessee, will be expanded to the entire country, AT&T said Monday, June 30th.

[CareSpark RHIO plans to realign ROI:](#) Efforts so that doctors pay less and those that benefit directly pay more.

[CareSpark's Success Formula: Think Long Term Plan Short Term](#) CareSpark recently announced their system is ready to launch, and five regional health care organizations are poised to start using it.

[One-third of Tennessee's residents have a shared health record:](#) Nissan North America and BlueCross BlueShield employees joined HIE.

[Tennessee HIE Chooses Shared Health](#) Tennessee has chosen a Shared Health to provide electronic health record software and e-prescribing technology for its new HIE, the Tennessee Information Network.

[Tennessee RHIO in Test Mode](#) The Big Bend Regional Healthcare Information Organization (RHIO), which covers a 20-county area around Tallahassee, is getting closer to going live.

UTAH

[Utah Health Information Network \(UHIN\) is a model RHIO, funded by members:](#) The RHIO formed for 13 years has been sustainable partly due to the majority of funding from membership. The RHIO did receive state funding back in 1995.

VERMONT

[Vermont Information Technology Leaders developing RHIO:](#) Organization has received state contract and is moving forward with medication history pilot project.

VIRGINIA

[CareSpark RHIO plans to realign ROI:](#) Efforts so that doctors pay less and those that benefit directly pay more.

[CareSpark's Success Formula: Think Long Term Plan Short Term](#) CareSpark recently announced their system is ready to launch, and five regional health care organizations are poised to start using it.

[RHIO workshop aims to go beyond:](#) MedVirginia announced "RHIO Lab" for those dealing with RHIO issues.

WASHINGTON

[US slow to adopt Healthcare IT says Health Affairs study:](#) Spending is high but adoption is several years behind other industrialized nations.

[Washington Health Information Collaborative to award \\$1 M to promote EMRs:](#) Emphasis on recipients in rural practices and hospitals.

[Washington Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board's report calls for HIT:](#) Recommendation to create health record banks for electronic information sharing.

WISCONSIN

[Wisconsin eHealth Action Plan Recommends HIEs](#)

[Wisconsin Health Information Exchange receives eHealth Initiative contract:](#) The funds will allow the RHIO to form a governance structure.

[Wisconsin Issues RFP to Support its HIE](#) Wisconsin's Health and Family Services Department has issued a request for proposals (RFP) seeking consulting services to support its statewide health information exchange vision.

WYOMING

[EHR bill fails in Senate:](#) Wyoming could have been 1st state in EHR network.

[WyHIO to Participate in Study to Connect EHRs to Regional Health Data Exchange](#) The Wyoming Health Information Organization (WyHIO) is attempting to promote the use of electronic health record systems and connect them to a regional health data exchange network.

[Wyoming Considering Health Information Sharing](#) The Wyoming Health Information Security and Policy Collaboration is currently assessing the barriers, possible solutions and implementation plans for a health information network in the state as part of a subcontract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to deal with this issue.

GENERAL

[Australia:](#) eHealth agenda faltering: Experts want Prime Minister to get Health Connect Network on track.

[Brailer resigns ONC:](#) He will serve as Vice Chair of AHIC.

[Bush tells AHA to post procedures prices:](#) The President hopes this may help reduce rising healthcare costs.

[Disagreement amongst physicians causes delays in British EHR system:](#) Stuck on decision to let people opt in or opt out.

[eHealth Initiative Releases 2007 HIE Survey:](#) Survey of 130 community-based efforts to improve healthcare by mobilizing health information electronically.

[Gateway Health IT Contracts to be Launched in 2008:](#) Ten contract opportunities to design and develop innovative health IT system infrastructure totaling \$35 million.

[Harvard Study Finds RHIOs Unable to Sustain Themselves:](#) Only 20 RHIOs in the United States which are functional and self-sustaining.

[HHS Designates 11 Communities as Chartered Value Exchanges](#) Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt today welcomed 11 more community collaborations to a growing national movement to build a health care system where consumers, providers and payers make decisions based on the value and quality of care.

[HIMSS Seeks Volunteers for Privacy & Security/RHIO Collaboration](#) HIMSS is seeking volunteers to participate in a collaborative work group between the Health Information Exchange and the Privacy & Security content areas.

[HIMSS to Sponsor Electronic Prescribing Solutions Showcase](#) Mark your calendar for HIMSS Electronic Prescribing Solutions Showcase on October 6-7, 2008 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers in Boston, Massachusetts.

[Journal of Healthcare Information Management \(JHIM\) picks RHIOs and NHIN for upcoming issues.](#)

[Lack of clarity on ROI for RHIOs](#) says IT experts from National Institute for Health Care Management Research and Education Foundation.

[Medicare projected to be insolvent by 2018:](#) Medicare administrator says Congress should cut provider payment increases and increases drug premiums for higher-income beneficiaries.

[NACHC/NRHA Partnership Targets Better Health for Rural America](#) The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) will collaborate on a joint task force aimed at improving the health of rural medically underserved Americans.

[National Governor's Association \(NGA\) and Health and Human Services \(HHS\) rolling out State Alliance e-Health initiative:](#) Alliance will be consensus based state level advisory and coordinating body.

[NHIN Partners to Create HIE Platform for the Military](#) Northrop Grumman's Information Technology (IT) sector, in partnership with Conemaugh Health Systems and the U.S. Department of Defense, is launching a software research and development program called the Military Interoperable Digital Hospital Testbed (MIDHT).

[Pioneer of E-health dies:](#) Dr. Tom Ferguson was an advocate for medical consumers since the 1970s.

[Prototypes Presented at Third NHIN](#) At the Third Nationwide Health Information Network Forum held in Washington, D.C. last week, four consortia of healthcare stakeholders provided demonstrations of health information exchange prototypes, developed through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funding over the past year.

[RHIOs crucial says 2006 HIMSS Conference keynote speaker:](#) Dr. David Brailer said he would like to see a RHIO in every state.

[RHIO Spotlight:](#) 60% of Israel's population benefit from RHIOs says CEO of CLALIT Health Services.

[State Medicaid Programs to Distribute \\$380 Billion](#) With contracts expiring for as many as 21 state Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS) over the next five years, now is the time for vendors to push for health IT enhancements, according to a new report recently released by INPUT, the authority on government business.

[*Advocacy & Public Policy*](#)

[2008 HIMSS Public Health Davies Awards Announced](#) As an invited participant to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Information Network Conference (PHIN) in Atlanta this week, the HIMSS announced the 2008 recipients of the HIMSS Nicholas E. Davies Public Health Award of Excellence.

[Census Bureau Releases New Health Statistics](#) The U.S. Census Bureau released the latest data on the number of Americans without health insurance.

[CMS Issues Proposed Rule to Set 2009 Physician Payment](#)

[CMS Outlines Recommendations for Medicare Claims Processing](#) CMS has recommended that practices take the following steps during the 10 business-day hold on Medicare claims processing.

[Democrats Urge Administration to Delay Medicare Physician Reimbursement](#) Senate Democrats took aim at the Bush administration's plans for implementing a Medicare physician reimbursement cut.

[EHR Regional Workshops for HRSA Grantees](#) The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is sponsoring regional workshops for grantees planning on procuring or implementing an Electronic Health Records system (EHR) in the next six months or planning to join or already participating in a network.

[House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee Passes HIT Bill](#) The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health voted to approve bipartisan legislation that would promote the adoption of a nationwide electronic health information infrastructure.

[House Hearing Considers Pending Health IT Legislation](#) A July 24th hearing before the Health Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means focused on options to encourage the adoption and use of a secure, clinically comprehensive, and fully interoperable health information technology system.

[Incorporating Health IT Into Workflow Redesign](#) The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released a request for proposal called "Incorporating Health IT into Workflow Redesign".

[New Project to Provide Technical Assistance to Medicaid and SCHIP Agencies](#) A new technical assistance program targets Medicaid and SCHIP agencies to help them develop, implement, and participate in health IT and health information exchange.

[New Volunteer Opportunity: Participate in HIMSS Healthcare Transformation and HIT Workgroup](#) HIMSS members are encouraged to sign-up for the new "Healthcare Transformation through Healthcare IT Workgroup" which will focus on making policy and funding recommendations to our next President and new U.S. Congress.

[NOF Endorses National Consensus Standards for HIT](#) To improve quality and efficiency and reduce errors and unnecessary treatments across the healthcare system, the National Quality Forum (NOF) has endorsed nine new national voluntary consensus standards for HIT in the areas of electronic prescribing, electronic health record interoperability, care management, quality registries, and the medical home.

[Specter Urges President to Call Congress Back from Recess to Address Medicare Physician Reimbursement](#)

Technology Corner

[AtlantiCare Plans to Build HIE Using Wellogic](#) AtlantiCare, the largest healthcare organization in southeastern New Jersey, is poised to build its health information exchange using Wellogic products and services.

[Axolotl's HIE Physicians Benefit from New Electronic Prescription Management Features](#) Axolotl Corp. has released a new version of its Elysium product, with a focus on delivering Elysium E-Prescribing customers added value and ease of use.

[California HealthCare Foundation may share software developed for Santa Barbara County with other RHIOs:](#) Software development cost \$20 M for the early RHIO, now could be licensed for use.

[Clinical Messaging:](#) E-Health Collaborative and Bloomington Hospital (Southern Indiana) Connect via Clinical Messaging

[Enterprise master person index \(EMPI\) technology successfully used in RHIOs:](#) Common identifiers not needed to locate/match patient information.

[Greater Rochester RHIO Envisions a Patient-Centered HIE](#) The Greater Rochester RHIO (gRHIO) is moving forward as part of New York State's effort to create an improved health systems infrastructure.

[Healthbridge Delivers Clinical Results to 23 EMR Systems](#) HealthBridge, the largest Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) in the United States is delivering clinical results to 23 unique EMR systems using Axolotl's health information exchange (HIE) Elysium solution.

[Health Systems Choosing Interoperability HUB](#) As physicians adopt ambulatory EMRs, so the demand for electronic delivery and inter-communication grows.

[HIMSS Web cast covers service-oriented architecture and RHIO development:](#) Intel and dbMotion led the session that emphasized establishing clear business benefit and implementation goals up front.

[Language-Analysis Software being developed by Xerox to aid in electronic information disclosure:](#) Technology will be available in 2-5 years.

[Louisiana Moving Ahead on Health IT with Several Grant Programs:](#) Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals awarded a \$15.9 million grant.

[Massachusetts communities implementing pilot for EMR software in physicians' offices:](#) BCBS has made \$50M pledge, plans to link community with merging with MA-SHARE RHIO.

[Michiana Health Information Network \(MHIN\) selected Axolotl:](#) Axolotl's e2 technology will be used in N. Indiana and SE Michigan for secure data delivery to physicians.

[Minnesota's Community Health Information Collaborative](#) Minnesota-based Community Health Information Collaborative (CHIC) has selected ZixCorp's Email Encryption Service to serve as the initial infrastructure for its new information exchange initiative.

[Network Chooses dbMotion to Improve Patient Care with Enterprise-wide Interoperability Platform](#) IRIS, the organizational network of Brussels' 5 public hospitals, and dbMotion announced the agreement for a major project to provide an interoperability platform for medical information sharing to the Brussels region.

[NHIN data exchange prototypes at 2006 HIMSS conference:](#) Four companies chosen by HHS to produce prototype with plan to move forward with one by end of year.

[Technology upgrade for Philadelphia's RHIO:](#) This is nation's 1st network for electronic exchange of diagnostic imaging results

[Tracking of errors helps improve patient safety says John Hopkins Children's Center study.](#)

Closed RHIO Organizations

[California HealthCare Foundation may share software developed for Santa Barbara County with other RHIOs:](#) Software development cost \$20 M for the early RHIO, now could be licensed for use.

[What Happens When the Board Decides it Doesn't Want a RHIO?](#)

Reports

[AHA concludes in report that participating in RHIO can enhance hospital's capabilities.](#) Report highlights various RHIOs. For more information click here:

[AHIMA Foundation Releases State-level HIE Report](#) The report is an extension on the 2006 study on development of state-level health information exchange (HIE) initiatives, under contract to the Office of the National Coordinator.

[Annual Survey of RHIOs Finds Funding Lagging](#)

[Background and Definitions Report](#) There seems to be general agreement in the United States that a Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) is a neutral, non-governmental, multi-stakeholder organization that adheres to a defined governance structure to oversee the business and legal issues involved in facilitating the secure exchange of health information to advance the effective and efficient delivery of healthcare for individuals and communities.

[Congressional Research Service \(CRS\) Reports](#) Member Only Benefit: Labor, HHS, and Education: FY2008 Appropriations - For a detailed list of available CRS Reports, visit HIMSS Member Center, then click HIMSS PULSE (left column).

[Federal and State, budgets with costs totaling more than \\$317 billion in FY05.](#)

[Guide to Establishing a Regional Health Information Organization](#) Written by the HIMSS RHIO Guidebook Task Force, the book is a comprehensive resource to support and guide those who are exploring, or actively involved in community initiatives to establish a RHIO to support the interoperable exchange of health information.

[History of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#) (Formerly Hospital Management Systems Society) Written by the HIMSS Legacy Workgroup

[Most RHIOs not fully operational:](#) The report issued by Forrester Research Inc. counts only seven RHIOs in operation with varied structures.

[New Fact Sheets Focus on NPI and EMR](#) Two new HIMSS fact sheets on electronic medical records (EMR) and the National Provider Identifier (NPI) are available free online.

[Overcoming Ten Non-Technical Challenges of RHIOs by First ECG](#)

["Patient-Centered Care: What Does it Take?"](#) study released by the Commonwealth Fund and commissioned by The Picker Institute, calls for health IT adoption to bolster care, November, 2007.

[Regional Health Information Exchanges \(RHIOs\) & Health Information Exchanges \(HIEs\) Overview](#) was prepared by the 2007-08 HIE Steering Committee as an educational overview of the current RHIO and HIE environment addressing the current acronym and definition challenges, RHIO/HIE objectives, drivers, challenges and benefits.

[Report Finds Strong Support of HIEs Across the Country](#) A new survey by the Commonwealth Fund finds that all states now place a high priority on health IT activities.

[RHIO Startup Funding and Finance for Life: Survey of Regional Health Information Organization Finance](#) prepared by Healthcare IT Transition Group and available for purchase. To purchase, click here:

[States Hold the Key to RHIO/HIE Expansion](#)

[The Prescription Infrastructure: Are we ready for e-Prescribing?](#) issued by CHCF.

Grants Related Reports

[GRANTS OFFICE Member Only Benefit:](#) A detailed list of federal, state and local grants is available on HIMSS web site, under the Member Center.

[HRSA Awards \\$31.4 Million to Expand Use of HIT at Health Centers](#)

[Minnesota Department of Health Awards Grants to Collaboratives](#) In response to Governor Pawlenty's e-Health initiative, the 2006 Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million to support the adoption of electronic health records in rural and underserved areas of the state.

[Survey finds RHIO funding is mainly grant based:](#) Healthcare IT Transition Group surveyed over 50 RHIOs.

State Focused Reports

[Profiles of Progress II: State Health IT Initiatives](#) by the National Association of State CIO's Health IT Working Group. This updated compendium delivers a state-by-state "snapshot" that illustrates the states' progress in health information technology implementation.

[Report Finds Most States Developing HIEs](#) Three-quarters of states have begun developing some kind of health information exchange, according to a report released by the State-Level HIE Consensus Project.

[State Impacts of the Medical Technology Industry](#) by The Lewin Group, reviews impact of the medical technology arena on healthcare, November, 2007

[State Level Health Information Exchange Project \(ONC contract with AHIMA FORE\)](#) - November, 2007

Other Resources and Tools

Visit the [HIMSS State Dashboard](#) for More Information on RHIOs/HIEs

[2007 Annual Report of the U.S. Hospital IT Market](#) Get valuable new insights into the world of healthcare IT and the latest analysis on the penetration of IT applications in various sectors. Information gathered from 4,000+ American hospitals on more than 100 applications and technologies is provided. This valuable edition evaluates the financial and clinical application environments in U.S. hospitals.

[Access for All America](#) A report by the National Association of Community Health Centers

[AHRA Issues Pre-solicitation for Health IT/HIE Assistance](#) The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) issued a pre-solicitation (AHRQ-07-10039) seeking technical assistance to help state Medicaid agencies implement health IT and/or participate in HIEs. These efforts will be coordinated with other health IT projects at AHRQ and potentially at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Healthcare Services Administration.

[AHRQ launches new suite of learning resources:](#) Available at the center's web site

[AHRQ Website offers tool for state-by-state comparison:](#) Website uses healthcare quality scores and disparities.

[CCHIT to Launch Certification for HIEs](#)

[Certification for Health IT Professionals](#)

[Congressional Research Service \(CRS\) Reports](#) Member Only Benefit: **Labor, HHS, and Education: FY2008 Appropriations** - For a detailed list of available CRS Reports, visit HIMSS Member Center, then click HIMSS PULSE (left column).

[EHR Implementation in Ambulatory Care](#)

[Enforcement of the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules](#)

[Federated Identity Management Business Case Toolkit](#) is a white paper developed by the HIMSS and Internet 2 collaborative workgroup between 2006 and 2007. This paper provides a detailed review of presenting a

business case for Federated Identity Management deployment.

[Guide to Establishing a Regional Health Information Organization](#) Written by the HIMSS RHIO Guidebook Task Force, the book is a comprehensive resource to support and guide those who are exploring, or actively involved in community initiatives to establish a RHIO to support the interoperable exchange of health information.

[Health Information Technology in the United States: Where We Stand Today, 2008](#) by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

[HIMSS Dorenfest Institute for Health Information](#)

[HIMSS GRANTS ADVANTAGE Available](#) There are a multitude of sites available to grant seekers for identifying funding initiatives.

[HIMSS Privacy and Security Toolkit 2007 Available Free Online](#) The new version of the HIMSS P&S Toolkit offers new insights and up-to-date information in many areas, including a timely discussion of some national-level initiatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

[HIMSS RHIO Connection Index Available Online](#) If you are looking for an article in a back issue of the RHIO Connection e-newsletter, find it at the newly posted [RHIO Connection Newsletter Index](#).

[HIMSS State Health Information Technology \(HIT\) Policy Guidance](#) by HIMSS staff in partnership with HIMSS Steering Committees, Work Groups, and Taskforces.

[Interoperability Collaborative formed:](#) Health Level Seven, Integrating Healthcare Enterprise and HIMSS Electronic Health Record Vendor Association have banded together to form the collaborative.

[Market Research on RHIOs/HIEs available from Frost & Sullivan:](#) *U.S. Markets for Healthcare IT-Opportunity Analysis* will provide market trends, obstacles, and drivers.

[Military Medicare Care: Questions and Answers](#)

[GRANTS OFFICE Member Only Benefit:](#) A detailed list of federal, state and local grants is available on HIMSS web site, under the Member Center.

[NIH Launches Technology Web Site](#)

[On the Road to RHIO: What State CIOs Need to Know](#)

[Participate in the HIMSS 2008 Compensation Survey](#) By participating in the HIMSS Compensation Survey - you'll help yourself and your peers find out if you are getting paid what you're worth.

[Privacy, Security and Health Information Organization](#)

[Regional Health Information Exchanges \(RHIOs\) & Health Information Exchanges \(HIEs\) Overview](#) was prepared by the 2007-08 HIE Steering Committee as an educational overview of the current RHIO and HIE environment addressing the current acronym and definition challenges, RHIO/HIE objectives, drivers, challenges and benefits.

[State Policy and Certified Health Information Technologies](#) Fact sheet by HIMSS Office of State Government Relations.

[Supreme Court Decision Makes It More Difficult to Sue Medical Device Manufacturers](#) Health Law Update by Blank Rome, LLP, Counselors at Law.

[The 2008 Presidential Election: Healthcare Plans](#) Fact sheet developed for the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU) by Rishi Surana and Venita Simpson, first year medical students at Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, DC. as part of their service learning curriculum.