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HIMSS HIELights



Highlighting HIE and RHIO Initiatives

April 2012

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HIE NEWS

What are the Potential Benefits of Community HIE Capabilities?

By Janhavi Kirtane and Patricia Urosevich, with Marie Richards, MEd, PMP, CPEHR, CPHIT, CPHIE

This article is the first in a series spotlighting the experiences and lessons learned of 17 Beacon Communities.

Beacon Communities—Demonstrating the Value of HIE Capabilities. The HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) is one of many stakeholders who have articulated the need, vision and strategy for exchange of health information (see "From the Office of the National Coordinator: The Strategy for Advancing Health Information, *Health Affairs*, March 2012). As the national debate continues, ambulatory care providers in communities across the country will need to ask the basic question around value of these capabilities, given their local context. The Beacon Communities provide unique case examples of how 17 communities across the country are answering this question. Their collective experiences can provide insights and evidence to the next wave of providers who seek to unleash the power of health information exchange capabilities in their community. [Read More >>](#)

Consumer Involvement in HIE Governance is Key to Transforming Healthcare

By Carladenise Armbrister Edwards, PhD

This article will highlight the importance of consumer participation in HIE governance and financing, and provide direction for engaging consumers in advancing the meaningful use of electronic health information, which is essential to improving health outcomes and reducing the costs to patients, employers and governments that are struggling to meet the rising costs of care. [Read More >>](#)

New HIE Toolkits Available

Several new toolkits are available for health information exchanges, including:

[Ambulatory HIE Toolkit](#)

- Federal, National and State HIE Initiatives
 - [Direct and NwHIN CONNECT: Overview](#)
 - [Direct and NwHIN CONNECT: Facts](#)
 - [Direct and NwHIN CONNECT: Ambulatory HIE FAQ](#)

[HIE Toolkit](#)

- HIE Business Models and Services
 - [HIE and the Small Physician Practice](#)

Review Twitter Recap of HIE Symposium

A recap of a Twitter conversation held March 30 on the HIMSS HIE Symposium is now available for viewing. Please click [here](#) to access the recap.

Legal Corner



Gerry Hinkley

The Future of the Affordable Care Act is Under Submission

By Allen Briskin and Gerry Hinkley, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP



Allen Briskin

The United States Supreme Court recently heard arguments regarding the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). If the Court rules that the entire ACA is unconstitutional, something that is a very real possibility based on the Justices' questions during oral arguments, then there would be significant impacts on health information exchange (HIE). [Read More >>](#)



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Public Health and HIE



Public Health and HIEs: Meaningful Use Stage 2

By Noam H. Arzt, PhD, FHIMSS

In February, 2012, CMS released a Notice of Proposed Rule-making (NPRM) for Stage 2 Meaningful use, and ONC

HIMSS Statement on Release of Meaningful Use Stage 2

Upon the release of ONC's proposed rule for Stage 2 Meaningful Use, HIMSS released a statement: "HIMSS is pleased that the Department of Health & Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have published its proposed rule for [Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program Stage 2](#) (Meaningful Use Stage 2); the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) is expected to publish the associated Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria Feb. 24. These are significant steps forward in transforming healthcare in the United States of America. Check out HIMSS resources focused on both the Meaningful Use Stage 2 NPRM and the Standards & Certification NPRM and get the latest updates on federal and state regulations with content vetted by industry experts. HIMSS [Meaningful Use OneSource](#) assists eligible healthcare providers and professionals in understanding Meaningful Use Stage 1 and Stage 2 requirements, timelines, and the proposed rule.

8th Annual Government Health IT Conference & Exhibition Explores Critical Year for Healthcare

The healthcare landscape is rapidly changing. This year has it all—tough decisions, enormous challenges, amazing opportunities and critical deadlines that will greatly impact the health IT industry. The 8th Annual Government Health IT Conference & Exhibition bring together many of healthcare's biggest influencers for an in-depth exploration of what changes 2012 will bring to both the industry and the country. Held on June 11-12, 2012, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington DC, the conference features two educational tracks—[Innovative Knowledge Exchange and The Changing Landscape of Health IT](#)—as well as Provider Solution Sessions and an exhibition featuring the [Interoperability Showcase](#). [Registration](#) for the conference is now open.

JHIM Seeking Columnists for 2013

JHIM, the quarterly, peer-reviewed journal of HIMSS, is seeking new columns and columnists for 2013. If you want to write a regular column (four times per year) and have an interesting topic you would like to explore, please send a 250-word proposal outlining the column idea, and be sure to include your CV and full contact information. Proposals are due June 1. For questions or submissions, please e-mail [Matt Schlossberg](#).

HIMSS/AHIMA Announce Joint Workgroup Survey

The HIMSS and the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) are providing organizational oversight of a collaborative Joint Workgroup project with the objective of identifying and investigating the universe of possible job opportunities and corresponding skill sets required in HIE settings. The findings of this study will be delivered in the form of a report published in the *Journal of Healthcare Information Management (JHIM)* and the *Journal of AHIMA (JAHIMA)*. The Joint Workgroup seeks to identify HIE staffing models in the current environment and emerging trends in HIE staffing models and required skill sets. The surveys target individuals who are responsible for recruiting, as well as those responsible for staffing HIE organizations. To achieve this goal, we've developed one survey specifically for recruiters and another survey targeted specifically for HIE organizations. Click [here](#) to participate. HIEs/HIOs can participate [here](#). Survey closes April 19.

NeHC Helps HIE Leaders Navigate the Path to HIE

By Meryt McGindley, Communications Director, National eHealth Collaborative
We have all heard the ideal use case for health information exchange (HIE) for example: You are a New Jersey resident on a ski trip in Aspen. You take a tumble down the slopes resulting in what you think is a broken leg. You are rushed to the hospital but rather than filling out various patient information and medical history forms and consent determinations, your attending physician goes to the computer in your room, types in your name and a personal identifier, and pulls up

Noam Arzt, PhD, FHIMSS released a corresponding Notice of Proposed Rule-making (NPRM) for the related standards and implementation specifications. A final rule is expected to be released by the summer of 2012. Here are some highlights of the new rules when it comes to public health. [Read More >>](#)

Networking

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HIE Spotlight



John P. Kansky, MBA, MSE, CPHIMS, FHIMSS
Vice President-Product Management and Professional Services
Indiana Health Information Exchange
The [Indiana Health Information Exchange](#) Inc. (IHIE) is the nation's largest health information exchange organization. IHIE is responsible for securely delivering clinical information to assist with care coordination and improving patient outcomes to more than 80 hospitals and 19,000 physicians across the state of Indiana.

Advocacy and Public Policy

ONC Publishes Paper on 'The Strategy for Advancing the Exchange of Health Information'

The Office of the National Coordinator recently published a paper called "The Strategy for Advancing the Exchange of Health Information" in the journal *Health Affairs*. A link to the health information exchange strategy PowerPoint presentation is available [here](#). The *Health Affairs* abstract is located [here](#).

Texas HIEs Merge with Greater Houston Healthconnect

The [Galveston County Health Information Exchange](#)

your full medical record, with medical history, insurance information and anything else the physician needs to know. This is all made possible thanks to interoperable HIE. This illustrates how HIE is intended to eliminate boundaries in healthcare so that patients can be treated in a timely, informed manner, no matter of location. [Read More >>](#)

HIE Formation



Laura
Kolkman, RN,
MS, FHIMSS

Part XIV: The Consultant's Approach

By Laura Kolkman, RN, MS, FHIMSS, and Bob Brown

In this series of monthly articles, the authors, based in part on their recently published book, discuss current HIE-related events and leading practices within the context of forming an HIE initiative in your state, region or community. This is Part 13 of the series. You can access previous installments at the [HIELights e-newsletter archives](#).



Bob Brown

In this month's column, we'll give a brief overview of consulting competencies and practices typically associated with HIE formation engagements. If you'll be working with consultants, it's appropriate to understand a little about the art and science of consulting, especially as it relates to HIE formation. [Read More >>](#)

(GCHIE) and the Health Information Exchange of Southeast Texas (HIESET) have merged with [Greater Houston Healthconnect](#). GCHIE is comprised of two hospitals and 752 physicians, and HIESET includes 16 hospitals and 650 physicians in six counties. Healthconnect will now include 133 hospitals and more than 14,000 physicians in a 20-county area. The merger is an effort to foster healthier communities by providing easier access to a more complete view of a patient's medical information

ONC HIT Policy Committee Updates: HIE Strategy and Stage 2 NPRM

By Kosta Makrodimitris, PhD, CF-FDA, CP-EHR

On March 7, the ONC HIT Policy Committee (PC) had the regular monthly meeting. National Coordinator, Farzad Mostashari had the opening remarks. The agenda items were updates about MU NPRM and CMS MU activities, Survey of Consumer Attitudes toward EHRs and the nationwide Health Information Exchange. Claudia Williams, Director State HIE Program presented and discussed the Health Information Exchange Strategy. Her presentation (slides and audio) are available on the [ONC HIT-PC website](#). She started her presentation with the abstract of the recent related article on Health Affairs on ONC HIE Strategy (Released March 5). [Read more](#).

Maryland HIMSS Chapter: Healthcare Information Technology Day

By Kosta Makrodimitris, PhD, CF-FDA, CP-EHR

[MD-HIMSS chapter](#) organized the 5th Annual Healthcare Information Technology (HIT) Day on Feb. 7, in Annapolis. The Maryland chapter is one of the largest across the country with more than 1400 members. [Read more](#).

Note: The inclusion of an organization name, product or service in this publication should not be construed as a HIMSS endorsement of such organization, product or service, nor is the failure to include an organization name, product or service to be construed as disapproval.

HIMSS HIELights features extended coverage of all aspects pertaining to health information exchange (HIEs) including state and regional level HIE activities. Published on the first Thursday of the month, this newsletter provides the latest industry news, features HIE case studies and focuses on specific topics impacting information exchange. The *HIMSS HIELights* is a complimentary resource for HIMSS members, HIE organizations, regional extension centers, government agencies and anyone involved and interested in today's health information exchange activities.

We hope you have enjoyed HIMSS HIELights. If you and your colleagues would like to permanently subscribe to each and every complimentary edition, [click here](#).

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