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Highlighting HIE and RHIO Initiatives

August 2012

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HIE NEWS

[U.S. News & World Report Releases 'Most Connected' Hospitals of 2012](#)

U.S. News & World Report recently published its 2012 list of the Most Connected Hospitals. The list includes 156 U.S. hospitals nationwide, ranked according to their advancement in EMR adoption. The federal government, through its incentive payments to physicians and hospitals that demonstrate Meaningful Use of EMRs, has played a central role in spurring the technology's adoption. A burgeoning number of hospitals have embraced EMRs beyond the government benchmarks. Hospitals also had to meet strict criteria for EMR use set by [HIMSS Analytics](#), a wholly owned subsidiary of HIMSS, that analyzes use of health information technology. HIMSS Analytics scores hospitals' adoption of electronic medical records on a scale from Stage 0 (no use of EMRs) to Stage 7 (full use, where the medical organization no longer uses paper records and has incorporated health IT into virtually every part of clinical care). Only hospitals at Stage 6 or Stage 7 as of July were eligible to appear on the Most Connected Hospitals list. Click the link above to learn more from *Healthcare IT News*...

[Notes on the White House Health IT Town Hall](#)

HIMSS is currently developing a new and improved web site. To that end, the kick-off work effort of the Task Force this year will be to review the existing content currently available in the HIE Toolkit. We're seeking volunteers with experience reviewing and updating content, an interest in contributing to this exciting effort, and availability in August/September to reach this first milestone before we dig into the creation of new content for the HIE Toolkit. After this effort, the Task Force will focus on the development of impactful tools for the HIMSS HIE Toolkit, focusing on such Meaningful Use and information exchange, business and sustainability, technical architecture strategies, and other areas of importance for HIOs/HIEs. The Toolkits exist to provide a solid and extensive body of dynamic information on health information exchange, including timely information around some of the most important national and state level activities. This Task Force meets monthly by phone with HIMSS staff, and is open to all HIMSS members. We're also looking for volunteers for other FY13 Task Forces and Workgroups—take a look at our [committee membership page](#) any time to see which opportunities are available. The first call for the Toolkit Task Force will be held on Thursday, Aug. 16, from 1 pm-2 pm (ET). Please contact Julie Moffitt at the e-mail link above to get involved.

HIE Formation

[Part XVII – Who's the Beneficiary?](#)

Public Health and HIE



Noam Arzt,
PhD, FHIMSS

Public Health and HIEs: Web Services Integration

By Noam H. Arzt, PhD, FHIMSS

While the Direct protocol is coming to increasing use for submission of data from providers to public health, a more sophisticated technology - [web services](#) - is becoming popular as well. Even though Stage 1 Meaningful Use (MU) only requires *uni*-directional interfaces to public health, some programs (especially Immunization Information Systems, or IIS) anticipate that *bi*-directional interoperability will soon be the norm (and may be incorporated into Stage 3 MU). Using web-services, XML-based system-to-system transactions can be constructed relatively easily. [Read More](#)



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Networking

Expand your network by connecting to HIMSS on these social media sites:



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

In this series of monthly articles - based in part on their award winning book - the authors discuss current HIE-related events and leading practices within the context of forming an HIE organization in your state, region or community. This is Part 17 of the series. You can access previous HIE Formation installments at HIELights' [archives](#). Click the link above to read the current installment.

Laura Kolkman, RN, MS, FHIMSS



Bob Brown



Advocacy and Public Policy

North Carolina HIE Adds Direct Messaging Capabilities

The North Carolina Health Information Exchange (NC HIE) has expanded its reach with the implementation of Orion Health Direct Secure Messaging, offering healthcare organizations another way to safely share health data between physicians and facilities. NC HIE officials tout this as the latest milestone toward the HIE's development of a robust exchange that connects providers, hospitals and public health departments throughout North Carolina. NC HIE already relies on Orion Health HIE, powered by Orion Health's Rhapsody Integration Engine, Clinical Data Repository and Clinical Portal, as the technology backbone for the statewide exchange. Click the link in the headline above to read the rest of the story...

HIE Deal Gives Florida Providers Exchange Power Out of the Gate

The recent agreement between key Sarasota providers to join HIE Networks' Florida Health Data Network (FHDN) "will provide real utility out of the gate" for public and private providers, said Allen Byington, CEO of HIE Networks. The Sarasota County Medical Society consists of nearly 500 physicians and multiple independent provider groups. It joins Sarasota Memorial Hospital, an 806-bed regional medical center, and First Physicians Group, a medical group practice of 50 physicians, in linking to the FHDN and HIE Networks to expand medical communication in the state. Click the link in the headline above to read the rest of the story...

NeHC Sees Progress on Patient Engagement

National eHealth Collaborative (NeHC) on Tuesday published the results of its Consumer Engagement with Health Information Technology Survey. More than half of the organizations polled said consumer engagement was a high priority for them. The survey was distributed to the 450 members of NeHC's Health Information Exchange (HIE) Learning Network. It showed that 53 percent of respondents ranked consumer engagement as high or very high in their organization's priorities; only 3 percent ranked consumer engagement as very low in priority. Click the link in the headline above to read the rest of the story...

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Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- Aug. 8
[mHIMSS Virtual Briefing: Mobile Health IT: A Glimpse into the Technologies at Work Today in Healthcare](#)
- Deadline: Aug. 13
[HIMSS13 Call for Proposals—Poster Presentation Submissions: HIMSS Emerging Professionals](#)
- Aug. 22
[Virtual Briefing: The IHE International Academy for Interoperability: A Healthcare IT Virtual Learning Network](#)
- Aug. 29
[Virtual Briefing: Transitioning to ICD-10: Is Your Healthcare Organization Positioned for Success?](#)
- Deadline: Aug. 31
[Call for Proposals—HIT X.O: Beyond the Edge](#)
- Sept. 10-14
[National Health IT Week](#)
- Sept. 12-13
[HIMSS Policy Summit](#)
- Sept. 28
[HIMSS Nursing Informatics Institute](#)

Deadline: Oct. 15

[2012 HIMSS Annual Award Nominations and Scholarship Applications](#)

Dec. 3-5

[2012 mHealth Summit](#)

Dec. 12-13

[Privacy & Security Forum](#)

Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 2013

[2013 Connectathon](#)

March 4-7, 2013

[2013 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition](#)

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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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