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## Interoperability Leading to Information Exchange

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### Inbox

#### January Information Xchange to Focus on HIMSS13

Next month's issue of *Information Xchange* will be devoted almost exclusively to the 2013 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition, March 3-7, in New Orleans. The next issue will highlight pre-conference symposia and workshops, general education sessions, specialty programs, and exhibit hall presentations that may be of interest to our growing community of individuals, experts, and organizations working in healthcare information exchange, interoperability, and standards.

In the meantime, registration and housing for HIMSS13 is now open. [Early-bird registration rates](#) for HIMSS13 are available now through December 17. In addition to registration, HIMSS13 [housing](#) and accommodation information is also available. Book your room soon, as hotels are expected to fill up quickly. HIMSS13 attendees are encouraged to make hotel reservations early through onPeak, HIMSS' official housing and travel bureau. In addition to [making hotel reservations online](#), attendees can contact onPeak at 877-517-3038.

HIMSS13 general attendee registration includes entrance to all education sessions, the main exhibit hall, the Interoperability Showcase™, the Opening Reception on Sunday, March 3, and a HIMSS tote bag (while supplies last). Go to the [HIMSS13 website](#) to see details on registration categories (e.g., full conference rate, one-day passes, and Wednesday exhibit hall only passes, etc.), specialty conferences, optional events such as workshops, symposia and sign-up to sit for the CPHIMS exam and/or review course.

#### UC Davis Releases HIE Buyer's Guide

Last month, the University of California Davis Health System's Institute for Population Health Improvement released the first edition of its [HIE Ready Buyers' Guide](#) to facilitate health information exchange (HIE). Produced by IPHI's California Health eQuality (ChEQ) program in collaboration with California Health Information Partnership and Services Organization and state HIE leaders, the guide identifies the base features and standards that should be in place to facilitate health-care data exchange today, especially in California.

According to the UC Davis press room, the guide will help physicians, hospitals and other health-care providers make informed choices when discussing HIE capabilities with electronic health record (EHR) system vendors or with Health Information Organizations (HIOs). It allows purchasers to make side-by-side comparisons of important HIE features based on commonly accepted interoperability and interface standards embedded in the EHRs that participate in

#### Opinion

#### HIE as an Essential Building Block to Active Technology Enabled Care Coordination

*By Alan Gilbert, MPA, FHIMSS, Managing Partner, Health Catalyst Consulting, LLC*

The healthcare industry and the technology enablement of the delivery and payment of care have permeated into our general consciousness of the country. Some discussions about the fiscal cliff and the component of the cost of healthcare on the Gross National Product and Gross Domestic Product focus on the value for the cost of healthcare and what can be done to lower the overall expenditure of care. [Click to read more.](#)

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*HIE Ready.* The Guide also provides information on how well an HIO supports those same standards. Click the link above to learn more about the guide.

### **HIE Implementation Connects Long-Term and Post-Acute Care Facilities**

The health information team at the [Keystone Beacon Community](#) has developed a new health information exchange (HIE) implementation tool that will allow any skilled nursing facility to share a patient's information inexpensively and securely—with or without an electronic health record (EHR). Thanks to this approach, previously inaccessible information collected by critical long-term and post-acute care facilities can be added to a patient's health record, enabling the patient's care team to work better together. Click the link above to read more.

### **Kansas HIE First to Connect to CDC Surveillance System**

*By Phil Cauthon, KHI News Service*

Kansas has become the first state in the country to connect to the national disease outbreak surveillance system via a digital health information exchange (HIE). Officials at BioSense — the syndrome surveillance system at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — said that the Kansas Health Information Network (KHIN) on Friday became the first HIE to begin contributing data.

Various individual hospitals nationwide already are linked to the system. Previously just one Kansas hospital — St. Luke's South in Kansas City, Kansas — was connected to the CDC system, which keeps constant tabs on 89 syndrome categories as mandated by the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Response Act of 2002. With KHIN joining the system, 10 more Kansas hospitals are now submitting surveillance data to BioSense. As more Kansas hospitals connect to KHIN, outbreak surveillance in the state will expand. Click the link above to learn more.

### **State of California HIE Progress Report Published**

The State of California Health Information Exchange (HIE) Progress Report provides an up-to-date summary of the many programs and initiatives funded under HITECH (i.e., the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act) that have been completed or are currently underway. The report is a follow-up to the highly successful [HIE Stakeholder Summit](#) and is part of the State of California Office of Health Information Integrity's ongoing effort to keep stakeholders informed. Click the link above to view and download the report.

## **Best Practices**

### **HIMSS Analytics Honors University of Missouri Health Care with Stage 7 Award**

HIMSS Analytics announced that University of Missouri Health Care has received the HIMSS Stage 7 Award. MU Health Care comprises five hospitals: Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute, the Missouri Psychiatric Center, University Hospital, and Women's and Children's Hospital. The award represents attainment of the highest level on the Electronic Medical Records Adoption Model (EMRAM) <sup>SM</sup>, which is used to track EMR progress at hospitals and health systems. Click the link above to learn more.

## **Showcase Connection**

### **Don't Miss IHE USA's Exciting and Dynamic Program for 2013**

Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) USA is proud to announce the [IHE Connectathon Conference 2013](#), on Jan. 30, 2013. The conference is the cornerstone of the annual interoperability testing event—the [North American \(NA\) Connectathon](#). Join us as we discuss the many ways that technology and IHE



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#### Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Dec. 12-13

[Privacy & Security Forum](#)

Jan 13-18, 2013

[HL7 Working Group Meeting](#)

Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 2013

[2013 Connectathon](#)

March 3-7, 2013

[2013 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition](#)

is enabling the achievement and sustainability of the meaningful use of healthcare information technology. Admission is \$195 per person. Learn more about our exciting [educational sessions](#) on IHE USA's website. Click the link above to register.

### **ICSA Labs and IHE USA Team Up to Deliver New Certification That Assures Security, Interoperability of Health IT**

IHE USA, a nonprofit organization that drives adoption of standards-based interoperability to improve patient care, and ICSA Labs, an independent division of Verizon, unveiled a new certification program aimed at assuring the security and interoperability of health information technology. The program will provide industry-accepted certification to complement existing conformance testing to IHE integration profiles to ensure that different software and systems can securely connect. Certification to these profiles, which also provide significant underpinnings to Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) specifications, will give purchasers of health IT products independent third-party assurance that there is a standardized, repeatable process that ensures products are suitable for secure health data exchange, and that the products function as intended. Click the link above to learn more.

## **Policy Pulse**

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### **HHS Delays Deadline for Health Insurance Exchanges**

*By Mary Mosquera, Healthcare IT News*

The Department of Health & Human Services has extended the deadline for states to declare their plans for a state-based health insurance exchange (HIE) for one month from Nov. 16th to Dec. 14th, 2012, to accommodate many governors who were waiting until the election outcome to decide whether to move ahead. Calling the delay "insignificant for states building their own exchanges, but possibly significant for states still considering the best approach," is Claudia Page, co-director of Social Interest Solutions, a nonprofit technology and policy organization that helps connect low-income families to programs such as Medicaid and is working with states to implement health benefit exchanges. Click the link above to learn more.

### **URAC Releases Clinically Integrated Network Standards, Seeks Public Comments**

URAC,\* a health care accreditation, education, and measurement organization, opened a call for public comment to share input and recommendations on proposed initial standards for clinically integrated networks. URAC is seeking comments specifically from multi-specialty provider groups, independent delivery systems, independent physicians associations, physician-hospital organizations, consumer groups and health plans with an interest in clinically integrated networks and accountable care organizations (ACO). To review the draft standards and submit comments, click the link above. Comments must be submitted by 6 pm (EST), Dec. 28.

\*Originally, URAC was incorporated under the name "Utilization Review Accreditation Commission." However, that name was shortened to just the acronym "URAC" in 1996 when URAC began accrediting other types of organizations such as health plans and preferred provider organizations.

### **DoD/VA Expand Health Data Exchange Pilot with Former NwHIN**

The Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) pilot, a partnership between the Department of Defense (DOD) and Veterans Affairs (VA), plans to expand their project with the [eHealth Exchange](#) ("Exchange"). Exchange, which originated from the previously-known Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN), has become a public-private consortium operated by [Healthway](#).

DOD and VA are members of the eHealth Exchange, and approximately 56,000

veterans have signed up as individual members. In addition, Exchange includes 28 partners sharing health information, a mix of private and public organizations that includes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Social Security Administration (SSA), DOD, and VA. Click the link above to learn more.

## Volunteer Exchange

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### **Information Xchange Call for Contributors**

By [Mary-Ellen Devitt Johnson](#)

*Information Xchange* is seeking columnists to offer their expertise and opinions on interoperability and standards leading to information exchange. Columnists may submit content sporadically throughout the year or on a monthly basis. Of particular interest are columns on practical solutions within healthcare environments for integrating information across different systems; public policy promoting the use of electronic health information; trends on the evolution of health IT standards testing and deployment; technical specifications for interoperability; and innovative activities leading to health information exchange. If you have an idea for a column, please send a short abstract and your CV to Mary-Ellen Devitt Johnson at the e-mail link embedded in the byline above.

### **Interoperability & Standards Work Group Volunteers Needed**

By [Mary-Ellen Devitt Johnson](#)

The Interoperability & Standards (I&S) Community is seeking volunteers for a number of new important teams. The Interoperability & Standards (I&S) Community is directed by the [HIMSS I&S Committee](#) which is charged with providing domain expertise, leadership and guidance for HIMSS activities, initiatives and collaborations in the area of interoperability and standards leading to health information exchange. The mission of the Committee is to promote the development, implementation and dissemination of semantically interoperable, standards-based health IT systems. Committee activities are coordinated through work groups and task forces. Currently, expertise and input is needed on the following teams:

- [HIMSS Interoperability Policy Section \(HIPS\) Work Group](#)
- Enterprise Architecture (EA) Work Group
- I&S Section on mHealth Work Group
- [I&S Toolkit](#) & Web Resource (Toolkit) Work Group
- [Health IT Standards](#) (Standards) Work Group
- Technical Information Exchange (Tech-IE) Work Group
- [Interoperability Definition Work Group](#) New!
- [Showcase](#) Work Group New!
- [Davies ID](#) for Interoperability (DID Interop) Work Group New!
- [Information Xchange eNewsletter](#) Task Force - in collaboration with [HIE Committee](#)
- I&S Podcast Task Force - in collaboration with [HIE Committee](#)

If you are interested in volunteering please send a short bio and your full contact information to Mary-Ellen Devitt Johnson at the e-mail link embedded in the byline above.

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.

*Information Xchange* features extended coverage of all aspects pertaining to interoperability and standards leading to health information exchange. Published on the first Thursday of the month, this newsletter provides the latest industry news, case studies and expert interviews. *Information Xchange* is a complimentary resource for HIMSS members, organizations, government agencies and anyone involved and interested in today's interoperability, standards and information exchange activities.

We hope you have enjoyed *Information Xchange*. If you and your colleagues would like to permanently subscribe to each and

every complimentary edition, [click here.](#)

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