



Illinois Health Information Exchange News

Illinois Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT)
Information for Illinois Health Providers and Professionals

Issue # 1

September 2011

Health Information Exchange; What You Need to Know

Health information technology, sometimes called e-health, uses electronic computer networks to store and manage medical records. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the State of Illinois is working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, and other agencies to assist health care providers with the adoption and Meaningful Use of electronic health records.

Improving the nation's health care through technology is a major initiative for **The Illinois Office of Health Information Technology**. We work to promote the development of health information technology, increase the adoption and Meaningful Use of electronic health records, assure the privacy and security of electronic health information, and direct the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange planning efforts. www.hie.illinois.gov/ohit/

The Illinois Health Information Exchange is the statewide secure electronic network designed to share clinical and administrative data among health care providers in Illinois and bordering states. The exchange is designed to improve the health of the people of Illinois through better and more informed decision-making enabled by the quick exchange of, and access to patient information such as medical records, labs, immunizations and prescriptions at the point of care.

Benefits of a Health Information Exchange

- ✓ Enables better care coordination
- ✓ Improves clinical and administrative efficiency
- ✓ Strengthens existing health information technology
- ✓ Reduces the need for patients to fill out forms every time they visit a new provider
- ✓ Access to federal stimulus funds and other incentives

For more information visit www.hie.illinois.gov/

"E-health Exchange- Better Care Through Technology"



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Provider Incentives and Assistance

Participate Early for Maximum Incentives

The Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs are awarding payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate Meaningful Use of certified technology in their first year of participation, and demonstrate Meaningful Use for up to five remaining participation years. Registration for the **Medicare** program is now open. For information visit the [CMS Electronic Health Records Incentives Site](#). The **Illinois Medicaid Incentive Program** launched on September 5, 2011. For more information and to register, visit the [Illinois Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentives Site](#).

To learn more about which electronic systems and modules are certified for the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Programs, visit <http://healthit.hhs.gov/>

Assistance from Regional Extension Centers

Need help finding or installing an electronic health record system? To assist providers in implementing and becoming "meaningful users" of electronic health records, two Illinois Regional Extension Centers provide outreach and support services to providers throughout the state. For more information about implementation, contact the Extension Centers at the addresses below:

- (For Providers Statewide) www.ilhitrec.org/ilhitrec/
- (For Providers in Chicago) www.chitrec.org/

Achieve Stage 1 Meaningful Use **NOW** - The Direct Project

The Direct Project can help you to achieve the key Stage 1 requirements for Meaningful Use, and provide an easy "on-ramp" for a wide set of providers and organizations looking to adopt. The Direct Project offers a secure, scalable, standards-based method of sending encrypted health information directly to known, trusted recipients. For more information contact us at hfs.hie@illinois.gov, or call 1-312-814-1600. For more information visit the official Direct Project Wiki at wiki.directproject.org.

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