



New Hampshire Health Information Technology and Health Information Exchange Efforts

This document is a brief summary of major events that have occurred in New Hampshire since 2005 that relate to health information technology (HIT) and exchange (HIE).

- In 2005, with funding from foundations, the insurance carriers, and the University's New Hampshire Health Information Center, the NH Connects for Health project was launched. Two statewide conferences were held on the topic of health information exchange, more than 30 key stakeholder interviews were conducted, and a provider technology survey was completed.
- New Hampshire was one of 34 states (initially – more added later) to receive Federal funding for the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC). The first phase of this project was completed in May 2007, examining the legal and process barriers to health information exchange. The final phase concluded in 2009, comparing a set of use cases across 11 states, including NH.
- All NH hospitals except 1 have inpatient clinical systems. It is estimated that more than 50% of New Hampshire's physicians have electronic health records in an outpatient setting. 100% of our Federally Qualified Health Centers and the one FQHC Look-A-Like have electronic health records. The result is that much of the core technical infrastructure is already in place, and this infrastructure will support statewide health information exchange in the future.
- New Hampshire's ePrescribing program was launched in October 2006 and one year later had active partnerships with Anthem, the Local Government Center, and key provider constituents. Between January 2008 and August 2009, ePrescribers in NH grew from 247 to 888 (264% increase).
- A statewide health information technology and exchange working group was convened in May 2007 and developed a vision statement and a set of principles (separate document), ratified in September 2007, to be used when stakeholders are considering health information technology investments. This was provided to Governor Lynch in October 2007.
- In 2007, a research effort in the North Country to conduct a needs analysis for health information exchange and to determine the financial viability of a North Country regional health exchange effort was performed. It demonstrated the high level of point-to-point interfaces developed alongside "view access" into various clinical systems across provider systems.
- In 2007, The New Hampshire Comprehensive Health Information System (NHCHIS) web reporting tool launched this past summer and will be expanded to 100 standard reports in the next year (www.nhchis.org). The system resides upon the Comprehensive Health Information System (CHIS), one of the first All-Payer Claims Databases (APCDs) in the country.
- In May 2008, the Governor created an Executive Order, asking the NH Citizens Health Initiative to develop a strategic plan. This plan was released in January 2009.
- In 2007, The Regional All Payer Healthcare Information Council (RAPHIC) was developed and initially consisted of all Northern New England states to develop consistency between each



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state's all payer claims database (APCD) for research purposes and healthcare transparency efforts. It now has representation from more than two dozen states, co-hosts an annual conference, and promotes APCDs in other states. One eventual goal is to link them to state health information exchanges (HIEs).

- New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is currently undergoing a Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) conversion/migration slated for completion in 2010/11. The new MMIS will be a web-based platform.
- Legislation in the past three sessions regarding privacy and security has been debated and some has passed (separate document).
- Fall 2009 – NH notified \$5.5M would be provided for HIE planning and implementation activities.
- November 2010 – NH DHHS held an HIE kick off meeting for all potential stakeholders held to provide overview of the project.
- Winter 2010 – Discussions began, hosted by NESCSO, between the New England states regarding how resources for health information exchange (HIE) could be shared. Current focus is a discussion regarding regional architecture as well as regional master provider index. Both concepts are exploratory. The plan is to continue to develop partnerships with Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts given that New Hampshire is geographically bordered by these three states and they currently have active health information exchange initiatives in various stages of development.
- June 2010 – NH DHHS held an HIE kick off meeting for all stakeholders involved in the summer 2010 planning effort.
- Late Spring 2010 – Discussions with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) led to a focus on partnering with a neighboring state to deliver services under the Regional Extension Center (REC) program as NH did not apply initially for REC funding. It will be known in early summer 2010 which state will be the partnering state providing the REC services to NH providers.
- Late Spring 2010 – NH Medicaid submitted to CMS the planning application document to enable the state to receive funding to develop the State Health Information Technology (HIT) Plan (below).
- Summer 2010 – NH Medicaid will develop State HIT Plan to enable the provider incentive payment program for meaningful use.

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