

HIT HIE VISION AND PRINCIPLES

Introduction

New Hampshire residents can benefit from sharing their personal health information to improve the safety of their individual healthcare, ensure it is provided with the highest standards, and contribute to programs advancing public health in our state. Achieving this full benefit requires the appropriate use of existing information technologies while protecting the privacy and security of an individual's information. This can be accomplished by combining advances in information technology with a realistic, public awareness of what information is most useful to share and what controls individuals can exercise over that sharing. By 2014 we expect the relationship between individuals and those providing their health care to be empowered through the use of health information technology and health information exchange.

Vision for New Hampshire Health Care Information Technology and Exchange in 2014

For Health Information Technology (HIT) and Health Information Exchange (HIE) to be successful in New Hampshire, there is a need to recognize the interrelationships and importance of patient privacy, patient safety, and public health. The NH Citizens Health Initiative holds the following vision for health care information technology and exchange for 2014:

1. **Private and Secure.** A patient's personal health information will be secure, private, and accessed only with patient consent or as otherwise authorized or required by law.
2. **Promotes Quality, Safety, and Efficiency.** HIT and HIE will serve as vehicles to promote quality and patient safety, increase efficiencies in health care delivery, and improve public health;
3. **Electronic.** All health care providers will use a secure, electronic record for their patients' personal health information;
4. **Accessible.** All patients will have access to a secure, electronic, and portable health record;
5. **Equitable.** HIT will be a vehicle to support equitable access to health care services.

Principles for Planning, Investment, and Adoption of Health Information Technology and Exchange to Support the Vision Statement

Privacy and Security

- HIT and HIE will be implemented in such a way as to ensure privacy of a patient's personal health information;
 - it is recognized that there are multiple uses for personal health information such as clinical, administrative, research, patient access, public health, commercial, and law enforcement;
 - no information shall be accessed or exchanged without patient authorization or as otherwise authorized or required by law;

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- uniform authorization practices will govern information exchange between organizations as well as within organizations;
- HIT and HIE will be implemented in such a way as to ensure physical and technical security of all personal health information;
- HIT and HIE will not be vehicles to support the commercial sale and usage of either personal health information or provider identifiable information;
- All vendor contracts will reinforce NH statute that information contained within a medical record is the property of the patient.

Quality, Patient Safety, Public Health & Resource Efficiency

- All personal health information that is authorized through patient authorization will be electronically accessible by treating practitioners to ensure clinical quality, continuous quality improvement, and patient safety;
- HIT and HIE shall actively support public health efforts, including disease reporting and surveillance, as authorized or required by law;
- HIT and HIE implementation shall be vehicles to improve operational, clinical, and administrative efficiencies.

Health Information Technology (HIT)

- All personal health information will be located within an electronic medical record or other clinical systems to promote uniformity of information, clinical quality, and ease of information sharing;
- Individual organizations will make their own technology investment decisions, but will do so within the framework of these principles;
- HIT implementation will adhere to and promote standards-based technology that will promote uniformity in health information exchange and other activities (ie, HITSP, HL7, ANSI, CCHIT, etc.).

Health Information Exchange (HIE)

- The health care sector and its stakeholders will actively work to develop the means by which personal health information may be exchanged on a statewide and a regional basis to the benefit of New Hampshire citizens;
- The health information exchange activities undertaken in New Hampshire must be justifiable.

Patient Access to Health Records

- Patients shall have access to a secure, electronic, and portable health record.

Access to Resources

- HIT and HIE shall be vehicles to support patient access to timely and clinically appropriate health care;
- HIT and HIE will enable home health monitoring, telemedicine, and other technologies in order to increase quality, improve efficiency, and access.