

The Value of EHRs is Derived from Their Ability to be Interconnected

To the Editor, Re: **"Doctors Hit a Snag in the Rush to Connect"** (*NYT Business Day*, Oct. 1): The value of electronic health records comes from being interconnected, giving doctors secure and confidential access to consenting patients' medical information anytime, anywhere, and potentially saving lives. Interconnectivity enables transmission of patient clinical records through a network connection. Common standards will broaden use of electronic records and facilitate connectivity with health information exchanges. Standards will reduce costs, paving the way for smaller physician practices to gain access. Creating "plug and play" connectivity will give all parties a stake and a benefit in lowering costs while growing new markets and innovative new products.

Greater interconnectivity of electronic records and health information exchange will promote coordinated care and support new care models under state Medicaid reform. New York's commitment to interconnected electronic records is evident in Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's \$55 million investment in the **Statewide Health Information Network for New York**—a "network of networks" linking 10 regional health information exchanges. In doing so, New York has become a national leader for developing and implementing health information exchanges.

[Read more.](#)

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2014 Digital Health Conference



Our November 17-18 **Digital Health Conference** is less than three weeks away and is on pace to completely fill to capacity! Join 850 healthcare and health tech professionals as they descend on Chelsea Piers to learn from and network with industry **thought leaders and innovators** who are shaping the future of healthcare through the use of technology.

Top 5 Reasons to Attend This Year's Event:

1. **Two days of exploration and dynamic conversation** addressing how the personalization of medicine is altering healthcare and creating unprecedented opportunities for healthcare professionals and innovators.
2. **Two not-to-miss Keynote Speakers:** digital health luminary Dr. Eric Topol and the provocative Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel.
3. **A peer-driven educational program** featuring over 15 thought-provoking lectures and interactive sessions, including DSRIP's transformative impact on NY's healthcare landscape, cutting edge companies pitching themselves into the Patient Shark Tank®, the game-changing emergence of patient generated data, and much more.
4. **Three 15-minute "TED Talk" style speakers** discussing how the tricorder has moved beyond the realm of science fiction, an Olympian's account of how the U.S. Women's Cycling team utilized health data to medal in London '12, and how the next generation of wearables will be able to read your thoughts.
5. **One opportunity to network and increase your visibility** with 850 senior-level healthcare and health tech professionals from across New York's diverse healthcare community.

Don't miss your opportunity to join your peers at one of the healthcare industry's must-attend events.

[Register Today!](#)

Transforming Healthcare in WNY Through Information Technology



HEALTHeLINK™

The healthcare community has changed rapidly with the implementation of health information technology from electronic health records to health information exchanges. But what exactly does it all mean for Cattaraugus County patients and the care they receive?

Imagine you arrive at the emergency room unconscious or a loved one is unable to remember what medications you take. Now imagine a medical resource that would serve as the patient's voice in these situations. With the use of a health information exchange, physicians have the ability to quickly and securely access medical history and safely treat patients by avoiding potentially harmful drug interactions or other complications.

As a result of the unprecedented level of collaboration from local hospital systems and health plans, **HEALTHeLINK** maintains the health information exchange in Cattaraugus County and throughout the eight counties of Western New York. Thanks to this collaboration, we have been able to build a strong health information infrastructure for physicians and other healthcare providers to utilize to get the information they need to improve the delivery of care, enhance treatment outcomes and help control costs.

[Read more.](#)

(Source: *Olean Times Herald*)

You Will Not Believe What Happens When an Olympic Athlete Takes on Health Tech



Sky Christopherson is something of an anomaly—and a 'Wunderkind,' according to *The New York Times*. He doesn't come from the healthcare world, but he's using what he learned from healthcare practitioners to change sports. An athlete on the U.S. Cycling Team and a member of 'Project 96 prior to the Atlanta Olympics, Christopherson retired after the 2000 Sydney Olympics, frustrated with the doping culture of sport that would eventually cost Lance Armstrong his Tour de France titles and disqualify the US men's cycling team from the 2012 Olympics.

That's not the odd part: having spent a good part of his life in training to stay in top physical condition, with all of the possible opportunities for overexertion or serious injury, who would have thought that it would be starting a technology company that would land him in the hospital?

Get lemons, make lemonade, and Christopherson will be making a rare appearance in NY where he will be speaking at the New York eHealth Collaborative's **Digital Health Conference**, discussing how he got his health back through technology—and went on to break a world's record.

[Read more.](#)

(Source: *AlleyWatch*)

New York State Department of Health Publishes Draft HIE Regulations

NEW YORK eHEALTH COLLABORATIVE

GALA & PATH AWARDS

PROMOTING ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY IN HEALTHCARE

Join us at the 2014 Gala and PATH Awards as we honor the achievements of those leading the mission to improve healthcare through technology.

PATH Honorees

Sanford I. Weill
Chairman Emeritus of Citigroup; Former Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Illumina
David Bentley, VP, Chief Scientist accepting

Emcee

Maria Bartiromo
Anchor and Global Markets Editor, FOX Business Network

PATH Awardees

Patricia A. Bomba, MD, FACP
Vice President and Medical Director, Geriatrics,
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield

Larry McReynolds
President, Lutheran Family Health Centers

[Click here](#) to purchase seats and for information about sponsorship opportunities.

Taking Digital Health to the Next Level

Promoting Technologies That Empower Consumers and Drive Health System Transformation

Digital health technologies—ranging from wearable sensors and portable diagnostic technologies to telemedicine tools and mobile health care apps—have the potential to transform the healthcare delivery system by empowering consumers to play an active role in their care and define what services are important to them. They also can help healthcare providers, insurers, and others analyze a growing body of data to identify unmet needs and measure treatment outcomes to better tailor patient interventions.

[Read more.](#)

(Source: *Commonwealth Fund*)

Price Chopper Supermarkets and Fusco Personnel Join Hixny's Growing Business Class

Hixny, the Regional Health Information Organization serving more than 1.6 million patients in the Greater Capital Region, Northern New York, and the Mohawk Valley, announces the expansion of its growing employer class to include Price Chopper Supermarkets and Fusco Personnel.

This strategic expansion of Hixny's employer class is designed to bring key regional employers to the on-going discussion of improving employee health and reducing healthcare costs in our region.

[Read more.](#)

(Source: *Hixny*)

Webinar: Promoting Hospital-Home Care Electronic Exchange & Partnership

October 30, 2014 | 10:30 11:30am

HCA, the New York e Collaborative, the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYs), Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), and Iroquois Healthcare Alliance (IHA) are collaborating to promote hospital-home care agency partnerships for electronic patient information exchange, and ultimately integrated service delivery.

As the first of a number of planned steps, NYeC and collaborating associations will hold an October 30 webinar (10:30 11:30am) to provide background and further guidance on ways in which home care providers and hospitals can connect for electronic patient information exchange meant to facilitate patient transition and post acute care arrangement, and also meet requirements under the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive, "Meaningful Use," Payment Programs.

The October 30 webinar will focus on direct messaging as a ready avenue for electronic interconnectedness between hospitals and home care agencies, and will also discuss other steps and avenues for more robust provider-to-provider, regional, and statewide health information access and exchange.

[Learn more and register.](#)

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Medicaid Eligible Professional Expansion—Meaningful Use Program—Includes MU Stage 2 Support

The Medicaid Eligible Expansion Program (EP2) is an extension of the original Medicaid Specialists REC (Regional Extension Center) initiative to provide outreach, technical, and support services for EHR adoption and achieving Meaningful Use both Stage 1 and Stage 2. Medicaid providers previously ineligible to receive support from the RECs for earlier Meaningful Use initiatives are encouraged to enroll in this MU expansion program. The EP2 program is extended until 2016 and includes direct assistance support for EPs to achieve MU Stage 2. Both New York State RECs will offer this program—the New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC) which services the entire state, with the exception of New York City, and New York City Regional Electronic Adoption Center for Health (NYC REACH), which provides services to the five boroughs within the city.

For more information please contact the respective REC representative. NYeC: Peggy Frizzell at pfrizzell@nyehealth.org or REACH: Rebecca Stauffer at rstauffer@health.nyc.gov.

CMS Reopens Opportunity to Submit Hardship Exception Application to Avoid 2015 Medicare Payment Adjustment

Eligible Professionals and Eligible Hospitals who have not yet attested to achieving Meaningful Use before may submit a hardship exception application to avoid this payment adjustment. The new deadline is: **11:59 PM EST November 30, 2014.**

The following conditions are the only circumstances that will be eligible for this exception: The providers, for an eligible hospital were unable to attest by July 1, 2014 or October 1, 2014 for eligible professionals

AND

The provider was unable to fully implement 2014 Edition CEHRT by the required dates (listed above), due to delays in 2014 Edition CEHRT availability.

Application is available at: [Payment Adjustments and Hardship Exceptions webpage](#)

Completed application must be emailed as an attachment to: ehrhards@provider-resources.com

Partner Events

“Hospitals Coded” Challenge Event



December 3, 2014 | New York, NY

Hospitals and health systems will face ever more pressure in 2015 to establish the core skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing healthcare market. From meeting new performance standards to maximizing investments in EMR systems, hospitals are under pressure to reduce costs and improve outcomes. Technology will play a key role in moving hospitals into the future. Hear from leading IT executives from major NY hospitals talk about their priorities next year and what they look for in new technologies. Watch 6 amazing start-ups compete to win the challenge and share their vision for the future hospital information technology.

[Learn more and register.](#)

Hixny Connects: 2014 Annual Meeting



December 9, 2014 | Albany, NY

Hixny Connects is our annual networking event and business update that has quickly become known as our region's "Healthcare event of the year." Hixny Connects brings together healthcare professionals, business leaders, government officials, and community members for an evening of networking and to learn about Hixny's progress over the past year in helping transform healthcare in our region and what we're planning for the year ahead.

Don't miss this important and exciting event!

[Learn more and register.](#)

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