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Governor's Budget Maintains Funding for the Statewide Health Information Network of NY

New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposed budget proposal includes $45M funding for the **Statewide Health Information Network of New York** (the SHIN-NY). The funding will support the building of the innovative, public network in New York designed to give doctors and patients instant access to their health records when they need them. The State Legislature will vote to finalize the budget by April 1, 2015.

New York State Forges Ahead with Telehealth Coverage

Licensed providers in one Mid-Atlantic state will now be able to reimburse for telemedicine services from private insurers, joining 21 other states that have made the move thus far.

New York's Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed into law a tele-medicine bill, which took effect Jan. 1, that requires private insurers to cover telemedicine services offered by certain providers. Among providers the law applies to are physicians, PAs, social workers, dentists, and psychologists.

As the **American Telemedicine Association** pointed out, many of the remaining states that have yet to adopt telemedicine reimbursement bills are following suit. Missouri, for instance, is one of them, with state Rep. Jay Barnes introducing two bills this year that would allow for distant site physical, speech, and occupational therapists to provide telemedicine services that would be reimbursed under the **Medicaid** program.

Read more.
(Source: *Healthcare IT News***)**

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Video: How Healthix's Alert System Improves Care for High-Risk Patients

0:00 / 46:46

White House Proposes $215 million, New Regs for Precision Medicine

The White House is proposing $215 million in new funds and new regulations in a sweeping effort involving the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology to help fulfill the promise of what President Barack Obama has termed precision medicine.

The bulk of investment, $130 million, will be devoted to the NIH, which will stitch together existing cohorts of genomic database and recruit new volunteers in an effort to create a million-patient-strong cohort.

Another $70 million will go to the NIH's National Cancer Institute, to scale up current efforts to link genomic variation and cancer, along with potential treatments. The head of the NIH, Dr. Francis Collins, said during a conference call Thursday announcing the policy that the investment reflects the relative maturity of genomic efforts in cancer treatment.

Read more.
(Source: *Modern Healthcare***)**

HealthlinkNY Announces New Web Portal

Following their recently announced merger, **HealthlinkNY** announced that the Southern Tier HealthLink (STHL) Web Portal has successfully transitioned to the HealthlinkNY Web Portal. HealthlinkNY is committed to delivering the most comprehensive patient data possible to Health Information Exchange (HIE) participants in their newly expanded region. In order to fulfill this obligation, HealthlinkNY began a redesign of the STHL Web Portal in the fall of 2014 with needs of their medical community in mind.

With the new web portal now operational, HealthlinkNY will now begin serving their participating organizations in the Hudson Valley and Catskills regions. As these organizations begin integrating with the HIE, data available through the HealthlinkNY Web Portal will increase exponentially and cover a wider geographical area. There are currently over 60 organizations throughout the Hudson Valley and Catskills regions scheduled for future integration, translating to roughly over 2,641,000 total lives covered by the HealthlinkNY HIE.

ONC Unveils Plan to Realize Basic Interoperability by 2017

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT **released a draft** of its 10-year nationwide interoperability roadmap, in which it aims to achieve basic electronic health data interoperability by 2017, Healthcare IT News reports. The draft roadmap builds on a **vision paper** released in June 2014 (Monegain, Healthcare IT News, 1/30). The paper outlined goals the agency hoped to achieve over a three-, six- and 10-year time period.
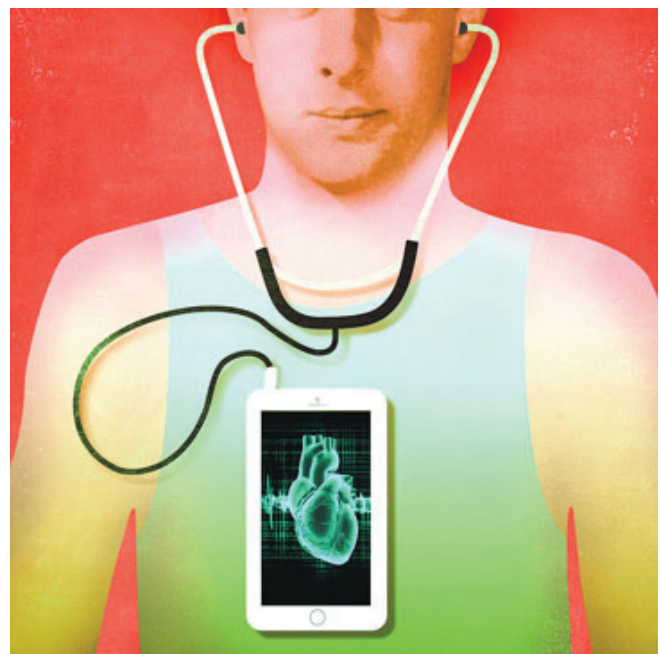
The draft report, titled "Connecting Health and Care for the Nation: A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap Draft Version 1.0," outlined short- and long-term goals for the next 10 years, with 2017 set as the deadline by which "a majority of individuals and providers across the care continuum" should be able "to send, receive, find, and use a common set of electronic clinical information" (Sullivan, Government Health IT, 1/30).

Read more.
(Source: *iHealthBeat*)

The Future of Medicine is in Your Smartphone

"Just as the printing press democratized information, the medicalized smartphone will democratize health care. Anywhere you can get a mobile signal, you'll have new ways to practice data-driven medicine. Patients won't just be empowered; they'll be emancipated." — Dr. Eric Topol

Over the past decade, smartphones have radically changed many aspects of our everyday lives, from banking to shopping to entertainment. Medicine is next. With innovative digital technologies, cloud computing, and machine learning, the medicalized smartphone is going to upend every aspect of healthcare. And the end result will be that you, the patient, are about to take center stage for the first time.

With the smartphone revolution, an increasingly powerful new set of tools—from attachments that can diagnose an ear infection or track heart rhythms to an app that can monitor mental health—can reduce our use of doctors, cut costs, speed up the pace of care, and give more power to patients. Digital avatars won't replace physicians: You will still be seeing doctors, but the relationship will ultimately be radically altered.

Read more.
(Source: *Wall St. Journal*)

Innovation Pulse: Can Platforms Foster an Ecosystem of IT Advancement?

Meet the new linguistic mashup: "plecosystem," meaning a technological ecosystem comprising different platforms. I first heard the phrase spoken by John Mattison, MD, Kaiser Permanente's chief medical information officer. Platforms are coming from technology leaders such as Apple, IBM, Google, and Microsoft.

"The best prospect from one of these players is that it's a platform", said Steve Savas, managing director of clinical services at Accenture. Rather than trying to create apps that target specific conditions or diseases, the tech stalwarts are building platforms on top of which independent developers can build those very targeted apps. "And that's the place they could have the biggest impact."

IBM and Apple, for instance, have been forthright in saying that "the art of the possible" figures prominently into their plans to foster an ecosystem of applications on top of HealthKit, the iOS and Apple hardware platform. And they do stand to profit handsomely if independent software developers give hospital chief information officers reason to buy armadas of iPads.

Read more.
(Source: *Government HealthIT News*)

Video: Hinxy's Patient Portal Empowering Patients in NY's Capital District

Mark McKinney
CEO, Hixny

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HealtheConnections Selected by NYS Department of Health's Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP) as Contractor for Central NY

The New York State Department of Health announced the selection of regional contractors for the Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP). **HealtheConnections** will receive an award of $2.4 million over two years to work with Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Oswego county partners and stakeholders, under subcontract with HealtheConnections, in executing PHIP responsibilities.

HealtheConnections, as the PHIP contractor for the six Central New York counties, will convene county and regional stakeholders and establish neutral forums to support implementation of best practices and local strategies to promote population health and reduce healthcare disparities in support of the State's Prevention Agenda and the State Health Innovation Plan.

Read more.
(Source: *HealtheConnections*)

Partner Events & Oportunities

February 27, 2015 | New York, NY

The 3rd Annual HealthIMPACT East Forum will bring together the who's who of the Health Tech Leadership across the region. At the forum you'll get actionable advice from health system IT leaders who have bridged the gap between technology, clinical practice, and organizational performance. You'll learn from their successes and failures in a fast paced, unscripted, hype-free forum where you set the agenda. Speakers are called upon to share information you haven't heard before and participants are called upon to question everything so you walk away with the knowledge to make change happen and do your job better.

NYeC eNews Subscribers: Receive a 10% registration discount with code **NYeC**.

Learn more and register.