

NYeC Forms HIE Policy Committee to Protect Personal Data While Advancing Health IT Initiatives

Similar to the way an individual's financial information is kept safe while allowing him or her better access to funds via ATMs and online banking, New York health IT policy aims to make health information both accessible and secure.

Partnering with the New York State Department of Health, the New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC) today announced the formation and membership of the Statewide Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY) Policy Committee. The committee is tasked with updating and creating policy measures to protect personal health information while expanding the state's ability to share electronic health records between various healthcare providers, along with consumers and other community resources.

Following a public solicitation for members, the new SHIN-NY Policy Committee was formed by the NYeC Board of Directors on March 20, 2012 and is comprised of individuals from across the state with expertise in policy: public officials, healthcare providers, attorneys, public advocates, Regional Health Information Organizations, hospital leadership, and other policy specialists.

"The success of this model rests in part on our ability to adapt to changes in the environment that shape public health and health care operations. I am grateful for the significant contributions that our stakeholders have made to ensure the continued success of this approach to governance," said Rachel Block, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Health Information Technology Transformation at the NYS Department of Health and Co-Chair of the SHIN-NY Policy Committee.

"It is essential for the success of this electronic health information enterprise that it be transparent and that all stakeholders have a meaningful voice in its governance. This committee's diverse membership reflects that principle," noted Art Levin, Director of the Center for Medical Consumers, member of the NYeC Board of Directors, and Co-Chair of the SHIN-NY Policy Committee.

Find a full list of committee members here:

<http://nyehealth.org/index.php/programs/statewide-collaboration-process/2012-policy-committee>

New York-Presbyterian Receives 2011 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award, Electronic Laboratory Orders Used

On April 5, 2012, New York-Presbyterian (NYP) will be presented a 2011 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and the Joint Commission. The hospital, which is recognized in the category of "Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality at the Local Level," has successfully attained greater than 90% compliance with medication reconciliation and reduction in the use of paper laboratory orders, in favor of electronic orders, by more than 70%.

"NYP recognized the transformative power of information technology to improve healthcare," wrote Eliot Lazar, Chief Quality Officer at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in an email. "There is no more important area to address than quality and we are most pleased to receive this award."

Awards will be presented at the NQF annual conference on April 5th.

See full press release:

http://www.jointcommission.org/2011_john_m_eisenberg_patient_safety_and_quality_award_recipients_announced/

Health Homes Challenges and Health IT Solutions Assessed at March Meeting

The best way to address a specific set of problems may be to go straight to those who deal with them every day.

Members from across the New York State healthcare community came together this month to discuss challenges and issues related to implementing the state's new Health Homes program, and how health IT—and the Statewide Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY), in particular—can help. The Health Homes initiative is designed to make the state's treatment of Medicaid patients, particularly those with multiple chronic conditions requiring a variety of care, more coordinated and efficient.

During breakout sessions at a working lunch, attendees gathered in small groups to discuss and record some of the issues that most affect their ability to deliver care.

Participants spoke out, offering requests such as looking to identify "non-traditional sources of data, i.e. prison/jail discharge or entry" or to "ensure connectivity with Medicaid data." Nurses, hospital staff, along with other providers raised issues such as "sensitivity to patient privacy rights," and presenting data in a "user-friendly manner that can be easily interpreted by a range of skilled workers."

Members of NYeC recorded comments and will use them to direct health IT innovation on the SHIN-NY "platform," the environment IT technology companies will need to build new products in compliance with to serve the needs of New York State providers.

"The tools to bridge the gaps that we are starting to see with Health Homes—the tools for a managed care environment—don't exist," said David Whitlinger, NYeC's Executive Director, speaking to the audience. "This is an opportunity to catalyze the health IT industry to build those tools for us. We want to learn about the requirements from you and embed them in the SHIN-NY so developers start building products that meet your needs."

The Health Homes initiative was created under the recommendation of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Medicaid Redesign Team as a way to treat patients with multiple chronic illnesses more cost effectively and efficiently. Qualifying Medicaid patients are assigned to a healthcare facility that coordinates their care across multidisciplinary teams. The goal of the Health Homes program is to develop and administer a consistent plan to improve care coordination and service integration. Medicaid estimates that there are approximately 700,000 Medicaid beneficiaries statewide who would be eligible to be enrolled in a Health Home.

Along with other members of the healthcare community, NYeC invited the New York State Dept. of Health (DOH), New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH), regional health information organizations (RHIOs), and providers participating in the Health Homes program.

Greg Allen, Director of the Division of Financial Planning and Policy at the NYS DOH, explained to the audience that a large percentage of the most at-risk Medicaid patients receive behavioral health and substance abuse care along with treatment for other medical issues. This care is often uncoordinated.

"We are trying to rebuild care management for some of our sickest patients. We need to wire the crevasse," Allen stated. "But we need a new set of tools, or we just create new gaps."

2012 Digital Health Conference Call for Speakers Closed



NYeC received hundreds of submissions in response to its Call for Speakers for this year's Digital Health Conference, to take place on October 15 and 16 at New York City's Pier Sixty. Speakers from across the healthcare and health IT industry—and from across the nation—applied, and submitted an impressive array of presentation proposals.

Applications are currently being reviewed and all applicants will be notified of the results within 6 weeks.

For more information about the conference, visit:
<http://digitalhealthconference.com/>.

The site is updated regularly with new conference details. For sponsorship information, please contact Tom Tagariello at ttagariello@nyehealth.org.

David Whitlinger to Participate in TEDMED's Great Challenges Program

David Whitlinger, Executive Director of NYeC, has been invited to serve as the "advocate" for the challenge of Achieving Medical Privacy and Transparency in a TEDMED program designed to promote understanding of twenty Great Challenges of Health and Medicine.

TEDMED has invited 50 Challenge Advocates to each promote their specific Challenge, and the TEDMED community votes 20 of those Challenges as the focus for the coming year.

Each Challenge Advocate participates in the conference by means of initiating informal conversations about their issue, in hopes to secure its selection as one of the year's 20 Great Challenges. Those selected will become part of a year-long discussion to advance collaboration on the issue.

The challenge of Achieving Medical Privacy and Transparency, as determined by TEDMED, includes such questions as, "How can we enable society to make 'big science' medical progress by aggregating 'big data,' yet also provide reasonable assurance that individuals' personal medical records will not be released to anyone without the patient's permission?" Whitlinger will discuss this along with other aspects of privacy and security at this April's conference in Washington, D.C.

We Want To Hear From YOU!

If you have a story about how electronic health records have affected your life, as a physician, patient, family member, or healthcare provider of any kind, we would love to hear it. We may be interested in featuring your story in an upcoming newsletter, or on our website. Please feel free to drop us a line at hitmeans@nyehealth.org.

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