

New York State Announces Statewide Network for Healthcare Records



Yesterday, the New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC), along with the New York State Department of Health, announced that three Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) and three health information exchange (HIE) vendors would participate in the Statewide Health Information Network of New York, or "SHIN-NY," which will function similarly to a public utility.

The RHIOs (Brooklyn Health Information Exchange (BHIX), e-Health Network of Long Island, and THINC) and HIE vendors (HealthUnity, IBM, and InterSystems) have each formally joined forces with NYeC to facilitate HIE across New York's downstate region—comprised of New York City's five boroughs, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley and with a combined population of 13 million.

This collaboration represents a significant step in that it formalizes the creation of a single, unified statewide network for healthcare records. The SHIN-NY (pronounced "shiny") is coordinated by NYeC and will unify existing state HIE initiatives, such as within hospital systems and local RHIOs, making electronic health records secure and accessible to healthcare providers statewide—improving patient care and lowering costs.

"New York has long been a leader in health IT investment and implementation," said New York State Health Commissioner Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H. "Today's announcement is the next step in the creation of a robust 21st century healthcare system that will better serve the people of New York. I applaud the hard work in regions around the State that has made these critical partnerships possible."

"A health information network is relevant to all of us," said David Whitlinger, Executive Director of NYeC. "If we ever need to visit the ER, anytime we get an MRI or have lab work done and need to make sure our primary care doctor gets the results—our records must reach whoever is treating us as quickly as possible."

Brooklyn Health Information Exchange, e-Health Network of Long Island, and THINC, each pioneers of HIE in their regions, have joined the SHIN-NY, connecting their databases and infrastructure to improve the care of the patients they serve and promote statewide health.

HealthUnity, IBM, and InterSystems have also entered into strategic contracts with NYeC to leverage their product suites towards the further development of the SHIN-NY and have agreed to standardization of software to permit safe and efficient interoperability, along with adherence to New York Statewide Policy Guidance.

SHIN-NY's Capabilities: Patients get attention, not paperwork

The secure communication permitted by the SHIN-NY will reduce time and resources currently wasted gathering disparate medical histories from multiple providers. This will be of particular benefit to patients with chronic conditions, who visit a variety of providers and treatment facilities, and are in dire need of more effectively coordinated care. This will also reduce the number of duplicate tests ordered.

The network will serve to prevent harmful drug interactions and highlight risks, allowing providers in emergency situations access to life-saving information, such as a patient's allergy and medication history. Doctors who spend less time trying to retrieve data will have more time to discuss treatment options and recovery plans with their patients.

Read the full release here:

http://nyehealth.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=255

NYeC REC Hits 1,000 Meaningful Users!

As of May, the NYeC Regional Extension Center certified its 1,002nd provider as a Meaningful User of EHR technology, making it the first Regional Extension Center nationwide to bring over 1,000 providers to Meaningful Use.

More about EHR adoption here:

<http://www.nyehealth.org/rec/index.php/ehr-adoption>

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