

Acting Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health Provides Briefing On Health Information Exchange



New York State Acting Commissioner of Health Dr. Howard Zucker joined [HEALTHeLINK](#) representatives earlier this month to provide an update on the state of health information exchange (HIE) in Western New York and across New York State. The event kicked off a series of regional press conferences featuring Dr. Zucker, Regional Health Information Organizations, and local healthcare providers to discuss and highlight how HIE is enabling doctors to provide patients better care. The next press conference will be held in Rochester on September 16, 2014.

The Acting Commissioner discussed the implementation of the [Statewide Health Information Network of New York \(SHIN-NY\)](#), a technology framework spanning the entire state that allows providers secure access to their patients' medical data through organizations such as [HEALTHeLINK](#). The recent New York State budget included \$55 million to support SHIN-NY in building out the network and connecting New York's ten regional networks, including [HEALTHeLINK](#), over the next several years.

"By allocating funds to create the SHIN-NY, Governor Cuomo has demonstrated his commitment to enhancing New York's healthcare delivery system by making patient health information available to all providers and across all settings throughout the State," said Acting Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker. "The work being done and the many accomplishments to date in Buffalo play a significant role in New York's regional and statewide efforts."

[Read more.](#)

(Source: [HealthIT Outcomes](#))

We Want To Hear From YOU—Share Your HIE Success Stories!

Has participation in your health information exchange had a positive impact on your ability to deliver quality patient care? Has it helped to improve patient safety and your ability to respond more quickly, enabled you to better coordinate care among other providers, helped to avoid duplicative testing, enhanced your efficiency, or perhaps reduced costs? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, then we want to hear from you.

Please contact us with your success stories so that we may share your experience with the broader community of providers. Our goal is to make truly collaborative care a reality for all individuals living or receiving treatment in New York State. Your support will help us achieve this important goal.

Share your HIE success story with us! For more information, please contact Jesse Giuliani at : jgiuliani@nyehealth.org

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Digital Health Conference Early Bird Rates Expire Next Month



Are you planning to attend the November 17-18th Digital Health Conference in New York City? If so, be sure to register by **Friday, September 19th to take advantage of early bird rates** and save over 15% off the standard rate. **Register Today!** Curious about who's speaking besides our awesome keynotes, Dr. Eric Topol and Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel? Get a sneak preview of our preliminary speaker lineup.

Healthix Supports DSRIP Planning



Healthix participants, representing 12 of the 43 lead applicants Statewide, received DSRIP design awards which were announced on August 8, 2014.

The Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program—or DSRIP—is a new incentive payment model designed to restructure delivery of care while reducing unnecessary hospital admissions by 25%. To this end, the State will dedicate a total of \$6.4 billion in funding, the bulk of which will be earmarked for incentive payments to organizations or Performing Provider Systems (PPS) that can demonstrate how they will deliver improved, efficient care to Medicaid patients. Healthix congratulates all who have been so recognized, and is here to support their efforts.

If you wish to discuss your organization's DSRIP plans and explore how Healthix may offer solutions, please contact Irene Koch, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Healthix at 646-432-3674 / ikoch@healthix.org.

EHR|HIE Interoperability Workgroup Final Report

EHR | HIE Interoperability WORKGROUP

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) released the final report from the **EHR|HIE Interoperability Workgroup** (IWG), an Exemplar Governance Program participant.

A collaborative of 19 states and 47 EHR and health information exchange developers and organizations, the IWG convened pilot programs to test interoperability standards for provider directories.

[Read the full report.](#)

(Source: **ONC**)

New Funding Available to Support Medicaid Providers with Health Information Exchange Adoption

FQHC & FQHC Look-Alikes Exclusive First Rights to Participate

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH), with support from CMS, has established the Data Exchange Incentive Program to increase participation of Medicaid providers in the contribution of clinical data to the SHIN-NY. The program is designed to help defray the cost to provider organizations of connecting to the SHIN-NY via a RHIO. The ability to participate in electronic health information exchange is important to improve patient care and lower costs, as well as support the achievement of Stage 1 Meaningful Use and participation in DSRIP projects.

The State has established a target of 3,000 providers contributing data by September 30, 2015. FQHCs and FQHC Look-Alikes have exclusive first rights to participate **until September 30, 2014.**

Organizations are eligible to receive incentive payments of up to \$30,000 for signing a RHIO Participant Agreement and implementing an EHR interface to contribute data to the RHIO. [View a 1-page summary](#) of the program. Interested FQHCs may [contact a RHIO directly](#).

For general program questions and information on how to reach your local RHIO, please contact Peggy Frizzell, HIT Implementation Project Manager, New York eHealth Collaborative, at pfrizzell@nyhealth.org or 646-619-6562.

STHL Works to Increase HIE Adoption in the Southern Tier



As a participant in the Statewide Health Information Network of NY (SHIN-NY), [Southern Tier HealthLink](#) (STHL) has recently increased community outreach efforts to strengthen awareness and adoption of Health Information Exchange (HIE).

With new additions to the team, STHL has been visiting practices in their region to introduce the benefits both providers and their patients can realize as a result of participating in an HIE. Through short demonstrations of the consent process and clinical viewer, STHL is able to quickly show how seamlessly the HIE fits into their daily workflow.

As a result of witnessing the potential for better patient care, time savings, and cost reductions, STHL has had a recent surge of interest in their provider community. Recently 7 local practices in multiple care specialties including Gastroenterology, Orthopedics, Primary Care, and Podiatry have signed on with STHL to "connect the dots." Watch for upcoming detailed announcements featuring these practices.

Help STHL make a difference in healthcare delivery in their community by spreading the word about STHL and getting connected. If you are currently a participating provider and know of a practice that would be interested in STHL's free services, please contact them today at (607) 651-9150 or email STHL at info@sthlny.com.

HealthConnections Offering Image-Enabled Results Delivery



[HealthConnections](#) is pleased to announce that Image-Enabled Results Delivery is now available as an extension to their current Image Exchange offering which enables medical image and results viewing from within their HIE and HIE participants EHRs or Direct message accounts.

Image Enabled Results Delivery provides fast and efficient access to images in the context of the radiology results message, maximizing the physician's time with their patient while eliminating multiple logins and navigation, and presenting easy-to-use diagnostic-quality viewing of the medical images tied to that result. A secure link and PIN is embedded into the radiology result document which, when accessed, can directly launch a universal image viewer for provider viewing.

"Delivering timely and valued regional health information to participating provider organizations, through EHR integration or secure Direct messaging, is a key benefit to both providers and patients," said Rob Hack, Executive Director of HealthConnections. "Time, quality and cost efficiencies can be realized when physicians and other care providers are able to not only receive and view radiology reports, but are now able to seamlessly and securely link to full diagnostic quality image studies."

Wearable Tech Can Extend Clinical Analytics

Wearable health devices and apps could help fill the gaps in electronic health records, if we can get past the challenges

As healthcare costs increase, so does the need to implement clinical analytics further. But collecting data that reflects a person's well-being is a challenge, especially for chronically ill patients.

As of 2009, more than 75% of healthcare costs are linked to chronic conditions, and nearly half of all adults live with at least one chronic illness. Chronic illnesses evolve over time, but until recently, the only way to grasp the bigger picture has been through patient-reported outcomes and bits of data spaced over long periods of time.

When I see my primary care physician, I see her for 20 minutes. In that time, she's attempting to gather data on my cortisol and cholesterol levels, blood pressure, and general lifestyle. That information provides a snapshot of my overall health. Meanwhile, on my wrist, several smart wearables are ticking away, gathering information and ready to process it into a neat little report on my daily heart rate.

For many people, especially patients with chronic illness, wearables have the potential to provide a long-term view of a patient's overall health, filling in data gaps to enable evidence-based care.

Read more.

(Source: *InformationWeek Healthcare*)

When Healthcare Prices Stop Being Hidden, and Start Getting Real

Figuring out how much a hospital will charge you for your medical care is insanely difficult—way harder than, for example, finding out how much the same hospital charges for parking.

That lack of transparency in health prices partially explains why there is huge variation in what doctors charge for the exact same service. An appendectomy can cost anywhere between \$15,000 and \$186,000. Doctors don't usually feel the need to make their prices competitive when shoppers can't see them. Over the past two years, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plans have been running a quiet experiment to see what would happen if prices became available in some cities but not others. And they found that just the act of making prices available can have a really dramatic impact on what they had to spend to get patients a very basic procedure.

How much is that MRI in the window?

For the experiment, the Blue Cross Blue Shield plans used a very standard procedure, an MRI scan, where there's little (if any) variation in quality from one provider to another. In St. Louis and Atlanta, for example, patients would be told how much an MRI would cost at different providers. But in Chicago and Kansas City they wouldn't get that information; they would go about setting up an MRI at their facility of choice, without any data on price.

Read more.

(Source: *Vox*)

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Partner Events

MEDTECH2014



June 2, 2014 | Albany, NY

Join the largest gathering of executives and senior leaders from across New York State's Bio/Med industry for MEDTECH2014. MEDTECH 2014 is a two day conference taking place in Albany, NY on September 15 and 16. As the industry shifts its focus to a value-based health care model, bioscience and medical technology players are facing numerous challenges—and opportunities—in today's marketplace. Confronted with a perfect storm of sweeping trends including budgetary challenges, regulatory pressures, and resource constraints, the winners of healthcare reform will be those who innovate to succeed. Throughout a two-day, collaborative event, MEDTECH2014 will provide attendees with the tools to consider Redefining Innovation in the Face of Healthcare Reform through:

- thought-provoking keynotes from industry leaders
- interactive panel discussions
- opportunities for networking and partnerships, including a dedicated industry collaboration day

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

[Learn more and register.](#)

Health 2.0 8th Annual Fall Conference



September 21-24 | Santa Clara, CA

Join over 2,100 attendees at the Health 2.0 8th Annual Fall Conference on Sept. 21-24 in Santa Clara, CA. The Health 2.0 Fall Conference is the premier health innovation conference, which showcases over 200 LIVE demos and 150+ speakers on over 50 panels and sessions. The Health 2.0 conference is a place where technologies and thought-leadership converge and disrupt, revolutionize, and catalyze the health tech landscape. This conference brings together the best minds, thought leadership, newest technology, professionals, government officials, and entrepreneurs to get ahead of the industry and make connections to forward the movement of technology in healthcare.

NYeC eNews Subscribers: Receive a 10% registration discount with code **F14MPTR**

[Learn more and register.](#)

Partner Events

Hixny Connects



December 9, 2014 | Troy, NY

Save the Date!

- Enjoy network, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres
- Discover how 2014 has been a transformational year for Hixny
- Hear Hixny's leaders talk about our strategy for the upcoming year
- Open to all healthcare professionals, business leaders, government officials, and community advocates

[Learn more.](#)

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Crain's Health Care Summit: Transforming New York's Health Care Industry



October 1, 2014 | New York, NY

After lengthy negotiations, the federal government agreed to give New York state \$8 billion for a five-year overhaul of the state's healthcare delivery system. The money is targeted at the state's expensive Medicaid program—but what most New Yorkers don't realize is that the changes ahead will affect healthcare delivery in New York well beyond the one in four New York City residents who receive Medicaid benefits. Crain's will address how the \$8 billion will act as seed capital for radical transformation. The state is planning changes that will have a profound impact on employers, commercial insurers, hospitals, and patients. We explain the transformations ahead—including more hospital closures—before they broadside New York businesses.

NYeC eNews Subscribers: Receive a \$50 registration discount with code **nyec** (all lowercase)

[Learn more and register.](#)