

Giving Patients Access to EHRs Does Not Increase Provider Workloads

Allowing patients to view their electronic health records during hospital stays does not drastically increase nurses' and physicians' workloads, according to a University of Colorado study published on March 9th, 2015 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, Reuters reports.

To assess what patients might learn while viewing their EHRs during hospital stays, University of Colorado assistant professor Jonathan Pell and his team provided tablet computers to 50 individuals who knew how to use the Internet.

The study found that allowing patients to view their EHRs did not create additional work for doctors or nurses. Specifically, researchers found that before patients viewed the records:

- **68% of surveyed doctors expected it would lead to additional work; and**
- **All 14 nurses who were surveyed thought it would result in more work.**

However, after patients viewed their records:

- **36% of doctors reported larger workloads; and**
- **Half of the nurses reported additional workloads.**

Pell noted that patients did not notice medical errors the way the researchers "had hoped" they would. Pell said, "The hope is that increased transparency achieved by sharing [EHRs] with patients while they're in the hospital would make them more engaged in their care, more satisfied and more likely to ask questions and catch errors."

Researchers found that 92% of patients before the study thought that seeing their EHRs would enable them to better understand their medical conditions, while 80% said they expected the practice to help them understand their providers' instructions.

However, after viewing their records, 82% percent said seeing their EHR helped them understand their medical conditions, and 60% said it helped them understand their providers' instructions.

Meanwhile, patients' fears that reviewing their medical records would increase their feelings of worry or confusion proved false. Specifically, after viewing their EHRs:

- **The percentage of patients who felt worried fell from 42% to 18%; and**
- **The percentage of patients who felt confused fell from 52% to 32% (Rapaport, Reuters, 3/9).**

[Read more.](#)

(Source: *iHealthBeat*)

Fast Company Co-Exist: Many Patients Would Like To Hide Some of Their Medical Histories from Their Doctors

Healthcare privacy laws are among the most stringent that exist. But upholding strong patient privacy is a major emerging question as more hospitals, clinics, and doctor's offices adopt electronic medical record systems that make it easier to maintain and share comprehensive histories of a patient's health.

Today, patients do have to give permission for doctors to share their records with other health providers. But usually that permission is all or nothing, applied to everything in the record, or may involve blanket approval for all health workers affiliated with an entire hospital system.

As the federal government spends billions of dollars to subsidize the adoption of electronic health records in the industry, this existing way of operating is under debate today. The question is whether some systems might offer patients the option to determine which health professionals they want to have access to their electronic medical records and to what parts of that record. (Though, no matter their choice, information would remain private and secure.)

William Tierney, associate dean of clinical effectiveness research at the Indiana University School of Medicine and also head of the Regenstrief Institute at Indiana University, recently led the first study that attempted to see what this looks like in the real world. Engineers spent more than two years building custom software that an inner-city clinic in Indianapolis used for six months. Unlike the commercial health record systems available today, the system allowed patients to hide some of their health data—say their reproductive health history, or their use of antidepressants—or hide their data from certain kinds of doctors, like a podiatrist.

The results were surprising to the researchers. Given the option, 49% of the 105 patients who participated decided to withhold at least some information from their doctors. Four patients went so far as to withhold all of it, meaning every time they saw a doctor, they'd start with a clean chart. Every single patient, even those who wanted doctors to see all their data, said they wanted to be asked.

[Read more.](#)

(Source: *Fast Company Exist*)

NY Tech CEOs Support Budget Approval for HIE Adoption

The State of New York has more than 50,000 healthcare providers participating in a large **health information exchange** (HIE)—called the **Statewide Health Information Network of New York** (SHIN-NY)—with more than 7 million patients who've consented for the sharing of their healthcare records. On March 16, about 80 technology CEOs from New York signed their name in support of funding and further developing HIE adoption.

In recent years, HIE adoption has been bringing a boom to the technology sector in New York state. This is why the group of CEOs **sent a letter** to the State Legislature encouraging them to pass Governor Andrew Cuomo's \$45 million suggested budget for the expansion of SHIN-NY.

This initiative could lead to the development of the "first large network for health information exchange" within the United States and may stimulate greater invention among health IT companies.

The letter sent to the State Legislature mentions how the health IT sector is booming throughout the state of New York and that budget approval will continue this growth for the economy by increasing EHR access.

Read more or **Listen to** the 1010 WINS radio interview with NYeC Executive Director David Whitlinger.

(Source: EHR Intelligence)

DOH Broadens its Acceptance for Specialized Registries for MU Stage 2

Recently NY Medicaid Public Health Objective Support Team released a FAQ that addresses the eligibility of Specialized Registries operating outside of NY State DOH purview. Providers may use Specialized Registries that have received CMS designation. However, NY State Medicaid EHR or Public Health Objective Teams will not provide administrative, onboarding, or operational support of any out of state Specialized Registries.

For complete information please review the NY State FAQs eMedNY website.

Health-Tech Boom Leads to Jobs Crunch



HealthConnections has partnered with both the state and the federal government to give authorized users of the health information exchange (HIE) the ability to query the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) and the Veterans Administration (VA).

NYSIIS Immunization Query

With the launch of this new function, HIE users can now query NYSIIS to view a patient's immunization history. HealthConnections provides this query with the click of a button once a user has selected a patient within the system. The query result shows the immunizations known to NYSIIS and those which exist within the HealthConnections database. Users can reconcile the immunizations between the two systems by selecting immunizations to be added to the HIE. If the patient is not known to HealthConnections (i.e. if the patient is not in the HIE), the system then allows the user to add their patient to the database. The immunization query is enabled practice by practice, and a NYSIIS ID is required to enable the function.

Veterans Administration Patient Query

The VA and HealthConnections are working together to allow HIE users to query the VA's medical records system. Through the external document search function, the VA system can be queried for treatment received at any VA facility within the United States. The VA requires consent from the veteran to release the information, and HealthConnections requires consent for the practice to receive the information.

Please contact HealthConnections Support at support@healthconnections.org for more details or to set up a training for these features.

(Source: HealthConnections)

State Provides Money for Better Health Info Access



This HealthlinkNY CEO Christina Galanis' interview appeared on local News Channel 34 on March 18th, 2015.

"Now that regional health information exchanges, or HIEs, have been well-established covering all of New York, the state is providing money to help them talk to each other."

Healthlink New York is the HIE that covers the Eastern Southern Tier through the Hudson Valley.

It collects personal medical data, with patient consent, from local hospitals as well as primary care providers and specialists.

Governor Cuomo's budget proposal would include \$45 million for the IT infrastructure to help the HIEs in different parts of the state share information.

HealthlinkNY CEO Christina Galanis said that her group is working on a patient portal to roll out this summer that would allow individuals to access their own records statewide.

"Which is really useful for those who have children in college, or they're going to summer camp and their data might be stored in different HIEs, your complete picture. So, it's going to be really interesting to watch patients start to take advantage of this as well in the summer," said Galanis.

Galanis said that while certain hospitals in Syracuse that treat burn victims or premature babies from our area can already access our exchange for information, the new statewide system would be more streamlined and convenient."

Watch the news.

(Source: HealthlinkNY)

HEALTHeLINK Featured as HIE Pioneer by HFMA



HEALTHeLINK™

HEALTHeLINK is highlighted as an example of an HIE leader in the winter edition of Leadership Magazine published by Healthcare Financial Management Association. The article titled "Getting to Interoperability: Learning from Healthcare Pioneers" addresses the success of HEALTHeLINK and includes interviews with Executive Director Dan Porreca, Dr. Michael Cropp from Independent Health, and Vicki Temperato from Western New York Urology Associates, LLC.

Read more.

(Source: HEALTHeLINK)

Mount Sinai Health System Launches Telehealth Pilot Projects

Using secure digital conferencing technology, patients can now manage their health, meet with physicians, and receive advice from **Mount Sinai Health System** experts—all without setting foot in a doctor's office. These initiatives are part of NYC-based Mount Sinai's growing new **telehealth** offerings, which help provide comprehensive, cost-effective care through the use of technology.

Read more.

(Source: HIT Consultant)

HxRefactored



April 1 - 2, 2015 | Boston, MA

What would happen if we could leverage design and technology to transform the health experience? Big things, that's what. Health 2.0 and Mad*Pow are excited to present to you **HxRefactored** on April 1-2 in Boston, MA! Come join over 600 designers, developers, healthcare thought-leaders, and practitioners who will demonstrate how they are revolutionizing the health experience today. Witness live product demos showcasing new trends in design and technology including some exciting leaders from Intel, Philips, The Brookings Institute, Harvard, Massachusetts General Hospital, TED Talks, Walgreens, and many more [found on the website!](#)

Friends of Health 2.0 receive 15% off the full registration price!

Use the code: **15PTR** on the website [here](#).

Get Social



Health 2.0 NYC Event: 10K Mental Health Digital Challenge



April 8th • 6:30PM | NYU Stern School of Business

Be a part of the Mental Health Digital Innovation Challenge where we will network and conduct a discussion of this important sub-sector of digital healthcare and award a \$10K prize to a startup in this space.

Details: <http://bit.ly/1AQVCC8>

Tickets: <http://bit.ly/1EEHQYk>

The time is now to apply innovative digital technology to increase access to mental health services and improve outcomes. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds. Undiagnosed and untreated mental illness costs us over \$138 billion a year in lost productivity.

This event is being sponsored by The Dudnyk Agency, HP Haven, and The Digital Mental Health Project as well as Medstart. Use discount code **Nyehealth** on Eventbrite to get 15% off.

HX360™ Inaugural Event: Fostering Collaboration in Technology-Enabled Healthcare Delivery

Technology
Humanity
Now



April 13 - 15, 2015 | Chicago, IL

Join us at **HX360's Inaugural event** will be held in Chicago, IL at McCormick Place, April 13th - 15th co-located with the **HIMSS Annual Conference**. At HX360, get inspired to reinvent care delivery by harnessing the right combination of human and fiscal resources, process change and technology. For the first time in the history of healthcare, executive leaders from health systems, health IT professionals, and innovators developing next generation technologies will convene in one place with one goal: improve healthcare delivery by leveraging next generation tech while maintaining the fiscal health of the health system.

This innovative program will examine ways that innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, providers, payers, healthcare stakeholders, and new entrants in the market can work together to solve contemporary provider challenges with regard to three key themes: Clinical Workflow, Care Coordination and Patient Experience. HX360 will showcase the latest innovations throughout the programming and in the Exhibit Hall, plus offer engaging networking opportunities.

- **HX360 Innovation Challenge** - 64 pitching companies, only one wins the \$75,000 grand prize
- **Startup Showcase** - A platform offering innovators and entrepreneurs interaction with HX360 and HIMSS15 audiences
- **Accelerator Hub** - Highlighting leading incubator and accelerator programs in healthcare
- **HX360 Marketplace** - Featuring mature and late-stage companies launching new products at the event

[Learn more and register today!](#)

Wearable Tech + Digital Health NYC 2015



June 30 | New York, NY

Join our partner, ApplySci, for Wearable Tech + Digital Health NYC 2015 on June 30th at the New York Academy of Sciences. The use of sensors, devices, and data to monitor, diagnose, gamify, and improve health will be explored by an exceptional speaker faculty. Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, MC10, Google, Baidu, Khosla Ventures, Qualcomm Ventures, MIT Media Lab, Brown University, Tel Aviv University, and UCSF will discuss what's next in Digital Health, Wearable Tech, IoT, Quantified Self, and improving the human condition through technology.

Friends of the New York eHealth Collaborative can register at the significantly reduced rate of \$495 (while seats remain) by using the code **NYEHC**.

[Register here.](#)