

# NYeCNews

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## CMS, HHS Release Proposed Policy Changes

In February, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the proposed [Interoperability and Patient Access Proposed Rule](#) outlining opportunities to make patient data more useful and transferable. The proposed policy changes support the MyHealth EData initiative to improve patient access and advance electronic data exchange and care coordination throughout the healthcare system.

Additionally, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) proposed [a new rule implementing provisions of the 21st Century Cures Act regarding information blocking](#). The rule aims to support secure access, exchange, and use of electronic health information (EHI) and calls on the healthcare industry to adopt standardized application programming interfaces (APIs).

These are major proposed changes and NYeC is interested in stakeholder feedback to inform a comprehensive and coordinated comment as a part of our advocacy efforts. To share your comments, please submit them by March 22, 2019 to [publiccomments@nyehealth.org](mailto:publiccomments@nyehealth.org).

[SUBMIT FEEDBACK](#)

## HealtheConnections, HealthlinkNY Officially Announce Merger



On January 31, 2019, HealtheConnections and HealthlinkNY officially announced the companies will merge together into HealtheConnections, forming a health information exchange (HIE) that serves participants in the Central New York, Southern Tier, and Hudson Valley regions.

HealtheConnections and HealthlinkNY are Qualified Entities operating and connecting their HIEs with others in New York State that together form the [Statewide Health Information Network for New York \(SHIN-NY\)](#).

The merger aligns with the strategic goals of efficiency and affordability outlined in the *SHIN-NY 2020 Roadmap*.

[READ MORE](#)

(Source: [HealtheConnections](#))

## Healthix Alerts Now Include Messages from Psychiatric Centers



In mid-February, Healthix began receiving patient care alerts generated by the 10 downstate psychiatric centers operated by the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH). For the first time, non-OMH participants will have greater insight when their patients are admitted to, discharged from, or transferred among these State-operated psychiatric centers.

**MORE FROM HEALTHIX**

(Source: Healthix)

### Join Our Team!

Healthcare is undergoing an unprecedented transformation through digital health—do you want to be at the center of it in New York State?

#### Albany Opportunities

- [Executive Assistant to the CEO](#)
- [Program Coordinator](#)
- [Compliance Auditor](#)
- [Program Specialist](#)
- [Systems Administrator](#)
- [HR Coordinator/Recruiter](#)
- [Contract Attorney & Compliance Officer](#)

#### New York City Opportunities

- [Lead Network Engineer](#)

NYeC is an equal opportunity employer.

**NYEC CAREERS**

## HEALTHeLINK Medical Minute



Dr. Anthony Billittier, Chief Medical Officer at Millennium Collaborative Care and an Emergency Physician with UBMD, reflects on the importance of continuity of care in the effective treatment of patients and understanding their complete medical picture.

**VIEW ALL MEDICAL MINUTES**

(Source: HEALTHeLINK)

## NYeC Selected as CMS NQIC Contractor

NYeC was awarded the CMS Network of Quality Improvement and Innovation Contractors (NQIIC) Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) on February 1, 2019. The contract is for five years with the potential to extend to 10 years with CMS approval. NYeC was one of fifty-eight organizations selected from a large pool of applicants and will help initiate this work across New York State and the country.

### ABOUT THE NQIIC

The CMS will have an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract to support quality improvement efforts across settings and programs to maximum impact to healthcare and value to taxpayers, entitled the NQIIC. The IDIQ contract allows for the full spectrum of quality improvement work that is in operation under the current various networks. This work currently includes the QIN-QIO work, the ESRD Network work, the hospital focused large scale improvement work, clinician-focused technical assistance work (PTN), and other quality improvement work.

## February NYeC Board Meeting Guests

As a part of NYeC's work to advocate on behalf of the SHIN-NY, our February board meeting included several special guests including Paul Francis, New York State's Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services; Gustavo Rivera, Chair, New York State Senate Committee on Health; and Richard Gottfried, Chair, New York State Assembly Committee on Health.

The guests shared their thoughts on several timely and relevant healthcare policy areas as a part of an interactive dialogue with the NYeC Board of Directors.



*"A lot of the work you've done in different parts of the state has been incredibly important in ensuring that healthcare professionals have the correct information for their patients," said State Senator Gustavo Rivera, Chairman of the Senate Health Committee. "Your work makes it easier for New Yorkers to receive better care, while saving New York much needed funding and for that you have my thanks."*



*"I commend the NYeC's work building and advancing the SHIN-NY system," said Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard N. Gottfried. "This important program protects the public interest, the needs of patients, and works well with the provider community."*



*When asked about looking into the future of healthcare, Mr. Francis remarked, "I continue to think that technology is going to change healthcare. I can't tell you the way that's going to happen, but the combination of technology that enables people to be treated outside of the hospital, and technology that will improve access to clinical care and information, makes this an incredibly exciting time for healthcare."*

Additionally, leaders from two active health plan users, CDPHP and HealthNow, discussed the importance of the SHIN-NY with each of their respective organizations. Dr. John Bennett, President & CEO of CDPHP, remarked on long-time support of the network and how payers have begun to take an active role in their health management. Dr. Tom Schenk, CMO of HealthNow New York, reflected on the use of SHIN-NY's ADT feeds to support care management and using the network for quality reporting needs.

## CMS Coin of Success Awarded



Kiera Kuhn, Practice and Patient representative, shakes hands with CMS TCPI lead, Dr. Rob Flemming, upon earning a Coin of Success. Congratulations!

Tri-County Family Medicine was invited to join the New York State Practice Transformation Network (NYSPTN) team in Baltimore at CMS' Annual Quality Conference as our representative Exemplary Practice, having met the PTN's criteria for exemplary status. Kiera Kuhn, as both a patient and a staff member, was awarded a coin of recognition during the event. Kuhn, and Tri County Family Medicine Medical Director Dr. Christian Wightman, presented as part of a panel made up of exemplary practices from around the country focused on population health. They shared their experiences as members of the NYSPTN over the last several years and how the program has helped improve their practice.

## HIMSS19 Recap



Photo Credit: *Healthcare IT News*

Over 40,000 healthcare and health information technology professionals came together in Orlando, FL from February 11-15 for a week of education and networking opportunities at HIMSS19.

Healthcare IT News offers an inside look at the innovation, news, education, technology, and key events from this year's conference.

[FULL HIMSS19 COVERAGE](#)

(Source: *Healthcare IT News*)

## New York State Patient-Centered Medical Home (NYS PCMH) Recognition Program

The New York State Patient-Centered Medical Home (NYS PCMH) recognition program improves primary care through care coordination, population health, evidence-based guidelines, and effective use of health information technology to meet patient needs. NYeC offers [free NYS PCMH services](#) to help practices deliver high-quality, coordinated care, earn payment incentives, prepare to thrive under value-based payment arrangements, and achieve New York State Patient-Centered Medical Home recognition. NYeC, with our partners, supports practices in Western New York, Westchester, Rockland, New York City, and Long Island. Services are available to practices new to PCMH, practices who are renewing their PCMH recognition, and CPC+ practices.

To date, NYeC has assisted 10 practices in achieving NYS PCMH recognition and we are working with many more. Space in the program is limited and time-sensitive so enroll today!

**ENROLL TODAY**

## EP2 Support for NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

The 2018 attestation reporting period for the NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program will be approaching soon and the EP2 Program, offering its complimentary support services, can help Eligible Providers successfully report on the necessary Promoting Interoperability (formerly known as Meaningful Use) objectives to receive incentive payment.

The EP2 team can also help EPs prepare for the all of the 2019 payment year updates coming down the pipeline by advising on workflow redesigns and attestations and providing outreach including hosting various in-person educational events and webinars.

If you are interested in the complimentary support services offered by the EP2 team and would like further information, please contact us at [EP2Info@nyehealth.org](mailto:EP2Info@nyehealth.org).

**2019 will be an exciting transitional year for the EP2 program, as we further develop Promoting Interoperability standards. The 2019 meaningful use requirements for all eligible professionals include:**

- The exclusive use of 2015 Edition Certified EHR Technology.
- EPs must attest to Stage 3 objectives and measures.
- There is a minimum 90-day EHR reporting period.
- EPs must report on 6 clinical quality measures (CQMs), including one outcome or high priority measure for the entire calendar year.

The [eCQI Resource Center](#) has posted the 2019 CQMs which align with MIPS, so eligible professionals may be able to participate in both the NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and MIPS.

## NYeC to See You!

NYeC was engaged at multiple conferences and symposiums in February. Here are photos from a few events!



### The PTN team attended the CMS Quality Conference in Baltimore.

Pictured from left:

NYeC's Jessica Ohlssen, Common Ground Health's Deborah Osterberg, NYeC's Chloe Winther, Odin Erickson, Ryan Stoner, and Okechukwu Ogbutor.



### NYeC at the DSRIP Learning Symposium in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Pictured from left:

Jen Pincus, Toby Lewis, Christie Doria, Kayla Germain



### NYeC sponsoring at VBP Forward in Buffalo, NY.

Pictured from left:

OK Ogbutor, Odin Erickson

