

New York State Strategy and Activities

Q: What are the goals of New York State's health IT strategy?

A: New York State has become a national leader in promoting and funding a comprehensive health IT strategy. To date it has provided more than \$260 million in grants to health IT and HIE projects. The funding is part of the Administration's efforts to transform NY's health care delivery from a paper-based system to an electronic interconnected system. New York's goals include:

- **Improvements in efficiency and effectiveness of care:** Provide the *right* information to the *right* provider at the *right* time regardless of the setting where the patient receives care.
- **Improvements in quality of care:** Harness the power of clinical information to support improvement in care coordination and disease management, help re-orient the delivery of care around the patient and support quality-based reimbursement reform initiatives.
- **Reduction in costs of care:** Reduce health care costs over time by reducing the costs associated with medical errors, duplicative tests and therapies, uncoordinated care, and preparing and transmitting data for public health and hospital reporting.
- **Improvements in outcomes of care:** Evaluate the effectiveness of various interventions and monitor quality outcomes.
- **Engaging New Yorkers in their care:** Lay the groundwork for New Yorkers to have greater access to their personal health information and communicate electronically with their providers to improve quality, affordability and outcomes.

Q: How will New York realize these benefits through health IT?

A: New York State's strategy is focusing on the development and use of various health IT and HIE tools in different settings to accomplish the goals listed above. These different tools are described in more detail below.

1. A statewide network that connects providers and consumers and allows them to share health information in a secure way: "The Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY)"

The SHIN-NY is akin to the development of some of the other great public goods infrastructure projects – telephone networks, electric grids or development of the inter-state highways. The SHIN-NY is a computer network that enables doctors, other providers and their patients to access the patient's health information from various sources (with the patient's consent) and exchange important information with one another to coordinate the patient's care. It will connect all the regional networks developed by the RHIOs (see below) and allow them to efficiently share services.

2. Increased adoption and use of health IT tools for providers and consumers

New York is using various programs and funding means to promote the adoption and use of EHRs by doctors and other providers and PHRs by consumers that will enable both groups to capture and share health information electronically.

3. Tools to support quality reporting and public health reporting

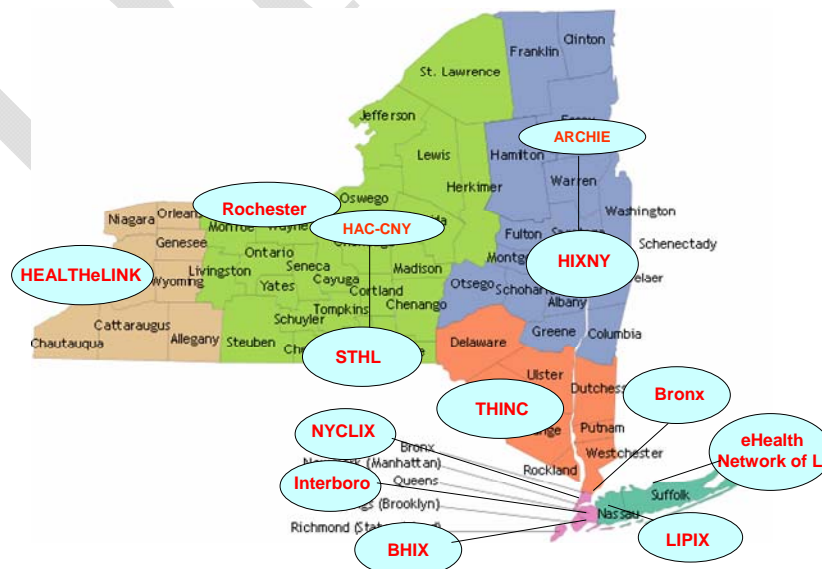
New York is funding the development of health IT tools that will enable doctors and other providers to send data electronically from their EHRs to outside agencies and organizations that measure the quality of their care and monitor public health information such as disease outbreaks.

4. New more effective models for the delivery of health care in a more coordinated way supported by health IT

New York is funding various community projects throughout the state that are implementing “patient-centered medical homes (PCMH).” The PCMH is a new model of care through which a patient and his or her various providers use health IT tools to coordinate the patient’s care.

Q: What organizations are responsible for providing health IT and HIE services in New York?

A: Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs): A RHIO is a non-profit corporation that brings together health care stakeholders within a defined geographic area and facilitates and governs HIE among participating stakeholders such as hospitals, providers, pharmacies, and clinical laboratories. It does this with the purpose of improving health care and access to care in that community. RHIOs’ networks will connect together as part of the SHIN-NY. Below is a map showing the RHIOs in New York State.



RHIOs
Adirondack Health Information Exchange (ARCHIE)
Bronx RHIO
Brooklyn Health Information Exchange (BHIX)
eHealth Network of Long Island
Greater Rochester RHIO (GrRHIO)
Health Advancement Collaborative of Central New York (HAC-CNY)
Health Information eXchange of New York (HIXNY)
HEALTHeLINK
Interboro RHIO
Long Island Patient Information Exchange (LIPIX)
New York Clinical Information Exchange (NYCLIX)
Southern Tier HealthLink of New York (STHL)
Taconic Health Information Network and Community RHIO (THINC)

To locate a RHIO in your region, go to: <http://www.nyehealth.org/nys-hit-projects>

A: Community Health Information Technology Adoption Collaboratives (CHITAs): A CHITA is an organization that provides services to doctors and other providers to support their implementation, adoption, training and effective use of EHRs and other health IT tools. CHITAs are also responsible for coordinating the support necessary for practice transformation, reimbursement changes and patient engagement, to significantly improve the availability and use of health information and to ensure that the expected quality and efficiency goals are realized from health IT.

CHITAs
Adirondack Regional Community Health Information Exchange (ARCHIE)
Columbia Memorial Hospital
Continuum of Care Improvement Through Information Exchange NY
Dr Moore & Associates
Four County Management
Greater Rochester IPA
Health Information Alliance of Syracuse
Hudson Information Technology for Community Health (HITCH)
New York Care Connect
New York Community Home Health Interoperability Project
Primary Care Health Information Consortium (PCHIC)
Primary Care Information Project (PCIP)
Samaritan Physicians Community HIT Collaborative
Taconic IPA
Trudeau Health Systems

To locate a CHITA in your region, go to: <http://www.nyehealth.org/nys-hit-projects>

Q: What entities are responsible for ensuring the public's interest is served by New York State's health IT strategy and policies?

A: Office of Health IT Transformation (OHITT): OHITT is an office within the Department of Health, led by the Deputy Commissioner for Health IT Transformation, which defines the overall state health IT strategy and provides leadership for the state's health IT governance and regulatory structure. Visit OHITT's website here:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/technology/>

A: New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC): NYeC is a non-profit, public-private partnership that works closely with OHITT, the RHIOs, CHITAs and other health IT projects in defining and implementing the state's health IT strategy and its overall health IT governance and regulatory structure. It also facilitates the "Statewide Collaboration Process" (described below), which is an open, transparent, multi-stakeholder process for developing statewide policies.

Q: How is policy developed and how does New York State ensure that it represents the interests of the consumers and other stakeholders?

A: To ensure that policies are developed in the public's interest, New York has a process that brings together all stakeholders – consumers, providers, health plans, policy makers – in collaborative work groups to develop common policies and rules for the use of health IT and HIE. This process is called the Statewide Collaboration Process. All New York providers participating in RHIOs are required to comply with these policies. These include policies to protect consumers' health records and ensure they are kept secure and confidential, as well as other policies related to the EHR functionality and HIE technical standards.

Q: What sources are funding the health IT initiatives in New York State?

A: New York has been able to build its health IT program through various means. Below are some examples:

- **HEAL NY grants program:** The HEAL NY grants program has been New York State's primary vehicle for funding health IT and HIE projects. To date it has provided more than \$260 million in grant funding through four different rounds of funding. More information is available here: http://www.nyhealth.gov/technology/efficiency_and_affordability_law/
- **Medicaid e-prescribing incentives:** NYS Medicaid is planning a program that would give incentives to eligible prescribers and pharmacies that use e-prescribing. The program is scheduled to go into effect in early 2010.
- **Medical Society for the State of New York (MSSNY) health IT grants:** MSSNY is running a program that has provided State grant funding to six projects that are implementing EHRs in medical practices.

- **NYeC Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) project:** NYeC is participating in the federal NHIN project, run by the Office of the National Coordinator, to develop a national network that can enable HIE across state lines.
- **New York State/New York City Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) HIE project:** DOH collaborated with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and several New York RHIOs to develop the technical designs for the electronic reporting of public health-related data to public health agencies using the SHIN-NY.
- **New York Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) project:** As part of this federal project, DOH convened various stakeholders to develop standard policies related to how RHIOs and their providers collect consent from patients to exchange their records. In subsequent phases HISPC funded the development of patient and provider education materials.

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