

NYeCNews

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Save the Date: 2020 Gala & Awards

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NEW YORK
eHEALTH
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DECEMBER 1 • 2020

Save the date for our [2020 Gala & Awards](#)! Join us for a **virtual celebration the evening of December 1st** as we recognize and honor the achievements of those transforming healthcare through groundbreaking leadership and innovation. Hosted by NYeC's Board of Directors, the Gala & Awards support our work to further improve healthcare delivery and patient outcomes in New York State through health information exchange.

This year's Gala will also feature a special tribute to express our gratitude for the heroic and tireless efforts of the frontline healthcare professionals who continue to care for patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We hope you will join us in December to celebrate our honorees and support NYeC's mission to improve healthcare by collaboratively leading, connecting, and integrating health information exchange across the state.

[To learn how you can participate in this year's event and sign up for updates, please visit our Gala webpage.](#)

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Public Health COVID-19 Response Relied on the SHIN-NY



The SHIN-NY provided critical support to providers and public health departments across the state in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensuring state and local public health officials had access to all tools and information available to them has been paramount.

Between March and June, public health department usage of SHIN-NY data increased significantly. During that time, the network was accessed over 3 million times by state and local public health departments related to nearly 600,000 COVID-19 positive or presumed positive patients and potentially exposed contacts in New York State. Over 90% of this SHIN-NY access by public health users took place within the downstate region, the area hit hardest by the pandemic.

Information contained within the SHIN-NY, including things like details on hospitalizations of current and previous COVID-19 patients and information on potentially relevant co-morbidities, continues to help State and local officials better understand the virus, as well as support plans of action and protocols for patient care and community protection.

The SHIN-NY stands ready to continue to provide this support throughout these difficult and challenging. The network has been a critical tool in the COVID-19 pandemic and New York State has made wise investments to ensure this infrastructure is available.

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SHIN-NY Spotlight Video: Selfhelp Community Services



Selfhelp Community Services, Inc., one of the largest not-for-profit human service agencies in the New York metropolitan area, utilizes the SHIN-NY to improve the care they provide to their clients and patients. Selfhelp has a critical, long mission to promote “independent living through a wide range of community-based services to seniors and other vulnerable New Yorkers”, and is able to bolster these offerings through the connection with Healthix and the Bronx RHIO. Having access to vital patient data and utilizing alerts on their patients’ hospitalizations has been extremely valuable for their team.

Watch the newest SHIN-NY Spotlight video at the link below.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Using HIE Data to Calculate Digital Quality Measures

In a pilot project funded by the New York State Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), NYeC partnered with NYSTEC and two of the SHIN-NY's QEs to test the feasibility of calculating electronic quality measures using health information exchange (HIE) data from the statewide network. The pilot set out to determine whether QEs have the ability to calculate these measures, as well as the data that is required for the HEDIS Electronic Clinical Data Systems (ECDS) measure specifications.

Results of this pilot demonstrated that HIE data is highly valuable for the calculation of certain quality measures, such as those used for cancer screening.

This exciting and innovative area of work is one of continued investment and focus by NYeC and the QEs, in ongoing partnership with NCQA and DOH.

Read more about the pilot project at the button below.

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NYeC Submits Comments in Response to 21st Century Cures Act EHR Reporting Program

On August 10, 2020 NYeC submitted comments related to ONC's proposed 21st Century Cures Act Electronic Health Record (EHR) Reporting Program. The comments included recommendations for prioritizing interoperability criterion for inclusion in the Reporting Program as well as emphasis on the value of including additional information about usability, cost, interoperability, privacy and security.

Further, NYeC recommended that the survey developed prioritize reporting on the most recent version of health IT available, but still allow users to report on previous versions of health IT if they choose. NYeC believes ONC should utilize a customizable, interactive web-based tool that saves progress, is easy to search, and allows users within the same organization to send each other sections of the survey and view completed sections.

Read all of NYeC's comments at the link below.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

HealthConnections: HIE Portal Replaces Physician Portal for Leading Organization in Hudson Valley & Connecticut



HealthConnections has partnered with Nuvance, formerly Health Quest, a leader in healthcare in the Hudson Valley region of New York state and eastern Connecticut, to sunset their current physician portal and replace it with the health information exchange (HIE) portal through HealthConnections by mid-September.

Through HealthConnections, Nuvance employees and its partners will have access to all the data they are accustomed to and then some. This shift presents significant cost savings for Nuvance, and increases interoperability and solidifies HIE as a critical piece of infrastructure in the Hudson Valley healthcare community.

“Our customer and technical engagement teams have prioritized building relationships and fostering increased HIE usage by demonstrating its value to participants,” said Rob Hack, President and CEO of HealthConnections. “We are grateful for the trust Nuvance places in us, and we welcome its partners to our network to deliver the data they need to support provider efficiencies and improved patient care.”

Read more at the link below.

[READ MORE](#)

HEALTHeLINK Medical Minute: Schofield Adult Day Health Care Program



HEALTHeLINK’s newest Medical Minute video is out now, featuring Candice Duffy, the Director of the Schofield Adult Day Health Care Program.

Watch the video at the link below to learn about how Schofield Adult Day Health Care Program utilizes important services like hospitalization alerts from HEALTHeLINK and finds great value in connecting to a health information exchange that is a part of the SHIN-NY.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Healthix: How a NY HIE Transformed Healthcare for its Homeless Population



Healthix is working to help their homeless population using a coordinated approach to improve the health outcomes of individuals without stable housing.

“One of the ways that we can help is by notifying our participants who are working with the homeless population by notifying them when one of their homeless patients shows up at a hospital. It’s an opportunity for them,” said Tom Moore, VP of Innovation at Healthix, in an interview with *EHRIntelligence*. “Sometimes, they’ll just shoot right over there to the ED and try to engage with the patient.”

Healthix developed the ability to “tag” homeless patients. ‘We began to use proxies for homeless patients,’ Moore continued. ‘These are addresses that are shelters, places of worship, government facilities, or healthcare facilities. When the patient gives one of those proxies as an address, that’s an indication that they’re homeless.’

Healthix has also been helpful for chronically ill homeless patients, who are fast-tracked into better housing situations more efficiently when their patient records show their health status.

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Hixny: Health Data Through HIXNY Allowed Quicker Pandemic Response



Mark McKinney, CEO of Hixny, recently spoke with the *Albany Business Review* about how Hixny and health information exchange improved healthcare workers’ pandemic response.

“As part of the pandemic, the state did begin to contribute some data to our network that it did not previously share in the form of some Covid laboratory results. And so that information then informed providers and payers about the status of patient conditions.”

“What the state was trying to understand initially was what characteristics Covid patients have that might explain why some were in the hospital for a short time versus long term. And if you think about in the early days of the pandemic, we were trying to figure out how many beds we were going to need, how many ventilators, and all of that information. New York could also see what the situation looks like, whether it was growing in one area or another. All that information was valuable to them as they tried to predict what the pandemic would look like.”

Read more about the pandemic response and future goals for Hixny on *Albany Business Review* at the link below.

[READ MORE](#)

Rochester RHIO & Ciitizen Discuss Information Blocking Rule



In an effort to help HIEs across the country better understand the Rule's implications, Deven McGraw, Chief Regulatory Officer, Ciitizen, and Amy Warner, General Counsel, Privacy and Compliance Officer, Rochester RHIO, discussed the ONC Cures Act Final Rule at the [2020 SHIEC Annual Conference](#).

McGraw notes that after years of comment on the components of the Rule, there is still a lack of clarity regarding implementation. "There's still a lot of confusion about how to comply and how not to. Nobody wants to violate the law. I don't think people fully understand the extent that their existing practices may or may not lead to violations."

"HIEs are considered 'actors' for purposes of the Rule and will be under scrutiny as enforcement begins — and subject to penalties," said Warner. "Our SHIEC Annual Conference session helped familiarize our HIE peers about the Cures Act, how to navigate more concrete definitions of information blocking and several exceptions, and the repercussions for non-conformance."

The Rochester RHIO plans to publish a summary of the session this fall.

The Data Exchange Incentive Program (DEIP) and Updates you Need to Know

The Data Exchange Incentive Program has expanded to EMS and Pharmacy

The Data Exchange Incentive Program (DEIP) will now be offering up to \$13,000 for EMS Agencies and Pharmacies to connect to the Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY). To learn more about how your organization can connect to the SHIN-NY, the value that the SHIN-NY will bring to your organization and the requirements of the DEIP, come join us for an upcoming webinar.

The SHIN-NY and DEIP for EMS

September 22nd 9:00 am - 10:00 am

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

The SHIN-NY and DEIP for Pharmacy

September 24th 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Learning Opportunities

NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Audit Preparation

Date: Thursday, October 29 at 1:00 pm

Description: The webinar will highlight everything you need to know about audits for the NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, so that you can feel confident and prepared throughout the attestation and audit process.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

MEIPASS PY2020 Soft Opening Available to Eligible Providers

For the final two years of the NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, a Soft Opening period will be introduced. Soft Opening allows for qualifying providers to submit an attestation in MEIPASS before the official opening of a payment year.

The PY 2020 Soft Opening is available for providers who:

- Do not have a PY2019 attestation pending. If a provider attested to PY2019, the provider must first receive payment for that year prior to attesting.
- Have a 90-day EHR Reporting Period ending prior to September 30, 2020
- Have a 90-day CQM Reporting Period ending prior to the September 30, 2020
- Have a 90-day MPV Reporting Period ending prior to the September 30, 2020

PY2020 Soft Opening will begin on October 1, 2020 and be available through the Official Opening in early 2021. For further information and/or assistance in preparing for MEIPASS 2020, contact the EP2 team at EP2info@nyehealth.org.