

NYeCNews

VOLUME 119 : DECEMBER 29, 2020

Reflections on 2020: A Message from NYeC CEO



Friends & Colleagues:

It is with a mix of reflective sorrow and cautious optimism that I write to you at the end of what has been the most universally difficult year we can remember. Early in 2020, the arrival of COVID-19 quickly turned what promised to be an exciting year of opportunity at the start of a new decade into a life-changing period of uncertainty and challenge. Throughout these long months, however, there have been bright spots and moments of hope, further uniting us and signaling a better future ahead. I have said it several times this year, and I say it again now — I have never been prouder to be a New Yorker. I have also never been more proud to lead an organization dedicated to supporting the healthcare and public health system in this state.

As a network that the State has invested in for over a decade, the SHIN-NY connects all of New York's hospitals and well over 100,000 healthcare professionals. This foundation positioned the network to quickly mobilize and bolster the state's pandemic response with access to needed clinical information, alerts about test results, and data to support public health officials across the state. You can read more about these efforts [here](#) and [here](#).

As the crisis continues, the SHIN-NY is prepared to continue the support of New York's courageous healthcare workers, public health officers, and patients. We extend our gratitude to SHIN-NY advocates and champions for their unwavering support especially throughout this difficult year.

The disproportionate impact of COVID on communities of color and the overarching, continuing crisis of systemic racism in this country is clear. We continue to mourn the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many others this year. There is much work that needs to be done to promote equity and reduce disparities. We at NYeC are committed to being part of the solution in healthcare, health information exchange, and beyond.

We look forward, with hope and determination, to continuing these and other efforts with you in 2021.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Grey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Valerie Grey
Chief Executive Officer
New York eHealth Collaborative

VIDEO: Highlights from NYeC's Virtual 2020 Gala & Awards



On December 1st, NYeC hosted its 9th annual — and first virtual — Gala & Awards. We were thrilled to recognize this year's honorees, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Dr. Laura Forese, and Montefiore Health System President & Chief Executive Officer Dr. Philip Ozuah for their groundbreaking leadership and vision — particularly in this difficult year. We made a special tribute to all of the healthcare heroes who continue to make incalculable sacrifices to keep our communities healthy and safe this year.

To do our part in keeping our esteemed guests safe, attendees sat together at “virtual tables” to socialize throughout the event. We enjoyed an evening of camaraderie while still paying tribute to our distinguished honorees and New York’s frontline healthcare workers. We thank the gracious sponsors and attendees for their support of this year’s event and hope to see everyone in person for the 2021 Gala & Awards.

If you were unable to attend this year’s event, we have included a short video of highlights from the evening below.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

HealthConnections: For Improved Patient Care, It's All About the Data



With access to comprehensive, community-wide collections of patient information, clinicians can better address the needs of their patients — individually and as a population — to provide improved quality of care, support patient safety, and a better care experience.

The New York Medical Group Management Association (NYMGMA) recently published an article featuring HealthConnections in their newsletter *The New York Beat* about the value of community-wide data at the point of care, for patient population health, and quality programs.

Read the article at the button below.

[READ MORE](#)

EMS & Pharmacies: Funds Still Available for SHIN-NY Connection

Enrollment in the Data Exchange Incentive Program (DEIP) is no longer available for most previously eligible provider types, but it is open to EMS Agencies and Pharmacies across New York State for another two months. Eligible organizations can receive up to \$13,000 to help offset the cost of connecting and contributing data to the SHIN-NY through a QE, which improves and enhances the entire network's ability to support all healthcare providers and improve patient care and outcomes.

If you are interested in the program, please note that the deadline to enroll in this program is approaching quickly. All eligible organizations must be enrolled by March 2, 2021. More information about eligibility for the DEIP can be found [here](#). Please email deip@nyhealth.org if you have any questions.

[READ MORE](#)

HEALTHeLINK Medical Minute: End of Year Message 2020



In HEALTHeLINK's most recent Medical Minute, Dr. Anthony Billittier, Chair of the HEALTHeLINK Board of Directors, and Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at Independent Health, talks about how providers have utilized the SHIN-NY through HEALTHeLINK to provide better, safer, and more cost-effective care this year.

Watch now at the link below.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Hixny: The Continuity Plan You May Not Have Considered



Earlier this fall, as they worked tirelessly to care for patients impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare providers faced an added challenge — cyber security attacks. Preceded by joint warnings from the FBI and other federal agencies that attacks on the US healthcare system were imminent, these attacks couldn't have come at a more inopportune time for our hospitals and health systems.

Hixny's CEO shares his thoughts on how partnership with a health information network (HIN) like a SHIN-NY QE can help ensure complete business continuity and disaster recovery plans.

[READ MORE](#)

Bronx RHIO Launches a COVID-19 Recovery Flag



The Bronx RHIO has developed a COVID-19 ‘recovery flag’ for the Virtual Health Record (VHR) portal and reports. This designation distinguishes patients believed to have recovered from COVID-19 from those with active cases.

This flag will also facilitate the identification and clinical management of previously infected patients diagnosed and accessing services at other facilities, with post-acute COVID-19 syndrome and other COVID-19 sequela. While recovered patients might develop some protective immunity, the duration and extent of immunity are unknown. Thus, this flag will inform the evaluation and management of recovered patients presenting with new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 3 months of the previous infection.

The COVID-19 recovery flag is currently available in Bronx RHIO reports and will be available by January 2021 in the Bronx RHIO Virtual Health Record (VHR).

Read more at the button below.

[READ MORE](#)

VIDEO: Rochester RHIO Hosts Inaugural Finger Lakes Health Data Conference



In mid-November, the Rochester RHIO hosted the first Finger Lakes Health Data Conference, bringing together more than 100 public health officials, researchers, business leaders and others from across the region for a half-day virtual event.

A series of panels and presentations, including a keynote from Joshua R. Vest, PhD, MPH of Indiana University, shed light on the strengths and struggles being faced in New York State and nationwide. A common theme was accuracy in collecting race and ethnicity data for improved decision making.

Read more and access the archived conference recording at the link below.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Learning Opportunities

Public Health Reporting: Success in PY 2021 and Beyond

Date: Wednesday, January 13 at 11:00 am

Description: This presentation provides an overview of the Public Health Reporting objective, details on how to satisfy the measures, and a review of exclusion criteria. We will also review the MURPH Audit Report Card and discuss how to apply the objective outside the NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

MEIPASS OFFICAL OPENING JANUARY 1, 2021

Payment Year 2020 MEIPASS Soft Opening remains available through its anticipated **Official Opening of January 1, 2021**. Eligible Providers are encouraged to begin Attesting for PY 2020 at their earliest opportunity. To successfully attest providers must meet the following criteria:

For Payment Year 2020, Eligible Providers may attest any time from now through the Official MEIPASS closing date in early 2021. Keep in mind all criteria must be met:

- Use a 2015 Edition certified EHR technology (CEHRT).
- Select a 90-day EHR Reporting Period that meets Stage 3 Objectives (or exclusions).
- Determine the Eligible Provider is non-hospital based.
- Demonstrate at least 30% Medicaid Patient Volume for a 90-day period (20-30% for pediatricians).
- Complete a 2020 Security Risk Assessment.
- Report on at least 6 Clinical Quality Measures (CQMs) relevant to the Eligible Provider's scope of practice, including at least one outcome or high-priority measure, for a minimum 90-day period.

The EP2 team prepares Eligible Providers for successful attestation through free readiness and support services. Contact EP2info@nyehealth.org for more information or to get started.