

# NYeCNews

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## A Message from NYeC CEO: Calling all Hospitals – Together We Can Increase Organ Donation and Save Lives



Did you know one donor can save up to 8 lives and heal 75 more through eye and tissue donation and that nearly 9,000 New Yorkers are currently waiting for an organ transplant? Unfortunately, each year, about 500 people in our State die before the organ they need becomes available. It is difficult

to understand why we have such a low percentage of registered donors when we know people in our State are all about helping others.

What can be done to increase enrollment in the New York State Donate Life Registry? We need to raise awareness and give individuals the opportunity to learn more and decide whether to become an organ and tissue donor. Information on how to enroll in the registry is now available at the Department of Motor Vehicles when you get your license, the Board of Elections when you register to vote, and the New York State of Health Marketplace when you obtain health insurance. You can also register at any time by visiting the website: [New York State Donate Life Registry \(ny.gov\)](https://www.ny.gov/donatelifeny).

Now there is another new and exciting way to help facilitate organ and tissue donation! Health systems and hospitals can apply to partner and have customized enrollment tools in the portals their patients use every day to get the health information they need. The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) has successfully implemented this option and as a result the number of individuals choosing to donate life has significantly increased! URMC worked with Donate Life New York State, the Department of Health, their local organ and tissue recovery organizations, and Epic (their electronic health record system) MyChart. For more information check out [Resources for Hospital Partners - Donate Life New York State \(donatelifeny.org\)](https://www.donatelifeny.org) and if you are a health system or hospital that uses Epic, please contact your Epic representative and mention SLG 5989382.

We encourage all health systems and hospitals to take a few simple steps to include organ and tissue donation resources in your patient portals!

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

## SAVE THE DATE: 2021 NYeC Gala & Awards



Save November 30, 2021 for NYeC's Annual Gala & Awards, an event at which 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.

Our 2021 honorees will be announced later this year and further details will be shared as they are finalized.

In the meantime, view highlights from our 2020 virtual Gala & Awards and hear from our inspiring honorees at the button below.

[2020 HIGHLIGHTS](#)

Please email [awards@nyehealth.org](mailto:awards@nyehealth.org) with any questions.

## NYeC Submits Comments on Proposed Modifications to the HIPAA Privacy Rule

On April 14, NYeC submitted comments to the Office for Civil Rights' (OCR) on the Proposed Modifications to the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

In our comments, NYeC expressed support for the proposed revisions that aim to remove barriers to coordinated care and enhance the individual right of access by patients to their health information, while ensuring the privacy and security of patient health information.

Additionally, we urged OCR to provide regulatory clarity and guidance on the scope of an HIE's permissions under HIPAA, as well as proposed definitions of electronic health record, healthcare operations, and community based organizations.

Our comments reflect experiences from the SHIN-NY in facilitating HIPAA permitted disclosures, including individual access to health information and exchange with community based organizations.

[READ THE FULL COMMENTS](#)

## Bronx RHIO Expands Diabetes and Hypertension Registry Project



As patients return to in-person primary care visits at this stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for chronic disease data is expected to grow. The Bronx RHIO is helping to meet this need by developing and distributing chronic disease registries as part of a CDC-funded NYS Department of Health (DOH) diabetes and hypertension prevention initiative.

The RHIO aims to use these registries to help providers prioritize primary care interventions for patients who need it most. Bronx RHIO is one of three Qualified Entities (QEs) selected by the DOH Division of Chronic Disease Prevention to join this project, which is now in Year 3 of 5.

### The RHIO's deliverables for the project include:

- Calculation of pre-diabetes and hypertension measures for the Bronx population
- Working with local providers to identify at-risk patients
- Using the data to drive enrollment into CDC approved education and intervention programs
- Monitoring health outcomes

Bronx RHIO now has 17 primary care practices representing 3 member organizations participating in the project, and is working to expand the dissemination of these registries to include at least one health plan. Learn more about the project at the link below.

[READ MORE](#)

## Hixny: What Happens When Vaccine Supply Exceeds Demand?



Experts predict that after everyone who wants a vaccine receives one, we'll still be short of the nationwide herd immunity necessary to control the pandemic. At that point, the supply of available vaccine doses will start exceeding people's demand for vaccination.

Closing the gap and reaching herd immunity will require a proactive approach to identifying and locating unvaccinated individuals and administering the vaccine to those who may not have had access earlier in the process. Health information networks (HINs) like Hixny are perfectly positioned to drive this effort. Not only do we have access to vaccination data and individual health records—including comorbidities and social determinants of health—but we also have the capacity to compare this data and make it useful to those administering the vaccine.

At the end of the day, our goal as HINs should be to help health professionals identify those patients who are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19. In doing so, when vaccine supplies begin to exceed demand, there will be an established path to increase vaccination numbers and achieve herd immunity.

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## HEALTHeLINK Supports COVID-19 Vaccination and Data



With the next phase of its COVID-19 response efforts focusing on patient immunizations, HEALTHeLINK is providing COVID-19 vaccination data where and when providers need it. In addition to having data available from NYSIIS (New York State Immunization Information System), and sending COVID-19 vaccine alerts to participating providers, HEALTHeLINK is working to expand capabilities to enable providers and public health providers to track vaccination progress more effectively.

Utilizing the COVID-19 vaccine data from NYSIIS, HEALTHeLINK is identifying patients who may have missed their second dose of Moderna or Pfizer in the CDC recommended timeframe. They are sending providers, who have established subscriptions, a weekly report of their patients with affirmative consent who have missed their second dose to allow for proper patient follow-up.

HEALTHeLINK is also sending its first local hospital real time COVID-19 vaccine alerts using the data from NYSIIS when a patient, who has provided affirmative consent, is admitted to the hospital by returning the ADT message to the hospital with the relevant vaccine information to more easily be consumed within their EHR. HEALTHeLINK is actively engaged with other local hospitals very interested in this same alert function.

## LiveOnNY and Healthix, Partnering to Save Lives



LiveOnNY helps New Yorkers continue to live on through organ and tissue donation. The organization is comprised of a team of over 200 clinicians, educators, social workers and more who help facilitate organ donation and accompanying services for the families of donors. Healthix has partnered with LiveOnNY for several years, providing the organization with data on more than 20 million patients across the five boroughs, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley.

Within minutes, LiveOnNY can access Healthix data to see the clinical history and health conditions of a patient. This information can help determine if a patient is medically suitable for organ or tissue donation, enabling meaningful discussion with family members during a difficult time. Healthix data may also provide information on next of kin contacts if it's necessary to outreach to family members.

“With organ donation, timing is vital. Instead of a lengthy data discovery process that would slow down efforts, we turn to Healthix. Healthix provides LiveOnNY with quick access to the all the in-depth information we need to act quickly.” —Richard Budke, Assistant Director of Clinical Services.

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## HealthConnections 2021 Letter to the Community: Reflecting on One Year of COVID-19



HealthConnections' most significant accomplishment of 2020 was supporting its participants, partners, and stakeholders for the outstanding work they have done and continue to do to serve the community.

CEO Rob Hack adds, "It has never been more important for shared community medical records to be readily available, especially as we watched healthcare and public health professionals face an unprecedented challenge. We have always felt a sense of responsibility to ensure that the thousands of HealthConnections' users have the right information, at the right time, for more informed decision-making and treatment. It feels good to know that providing [our users] with critical patient data, including COVID-19 testing and vaccination data, was helpful."

In the letter linked below, Hack also speaks about his optimism for the year ahead.

[READ MORE](#)

## Rochester RHIO: New Community Health Measure Provides Powerful Tool To Support Healthy Weight in Children



A new public health tool is tracking childhood obesity trends, helping identify communities across the Finger Lakes Region that are struggling with the issue. Data may be used to guide public investment that supports families with healthy weight initiatives. This adds to a growing catalogue of measures that also includes smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes, and adult obesity.

The Community Health Indicators, developed by [Common Ground Health](#), Rochester RHIO, and the University of Rochester Medical Center's Center for Community Health & Prevention and [Clinical & Translational Science Institute](#), provides childhood obesity data for 13 counties in New York State.

"The ability to use electronic medical records for improving public health is a game changer, and our region is among the best in the United States at doing so," said Jill Eisenstein, Rochester RHIO President and Chief Executive Officer.

## MEIPASS Is Open For PY 2021

### Providers Can Now Attest in MEIPASS Through August 31st, 2021

- To give every provider a chance to participate in a truncated program year, PY 2021's attestation period is open from now through August. Providers can attest as soon as they have:
  - Met all program metrics
  - Identified an MPV Reporting Period
  - Completed their 90-day EHR & eCQM Reporting

### What To Keep in Mind During PY 2021 Attestation Preparation

- For PY 2021, providers will only be able to submit MPV pre-validation calculations using the “previous calendar year” method. NYS DOH MPV pre-validation is currently live through June 11th, 2021. Please click the following links to get started!

INDIVIDUAL MPV

GROUP MPV

- Unlike in previous program years, providers will be unable to utilize the final quarter of the year to establish reporting periods.
- An **SRA** is still required and must be completed by December 31st, 2021, but providers do not need to complete the SRA prior to the date of their attestation. Providers can attest to the SRA being completed at a future date in calendar year 2021, while completing their MEIPASS submission. For more information on the 2021 SRA, contact the EP2 Team.
- **Attestation Deadline Extensions** will not be issued for PY 2021. The EP2 team strongly recommends participants prepare for attestation as soon as possible to avoid missing out on incentive payments.
- If you have any questions or need help preparing for your PY 2021 attestation, please contact the EP2 team at [ep2info@nyehealth.org](mailto:ep2info@nyehealth.org). We are here to help you navigate the final year of the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

### Last Day to Begin an EHR/CQM Reporting Period is June 1st, 2021

- Providers yet to establish their reporting periods need to begin work to complete program metrics by June 1st to be eligible for an incentive payment.

For FREE PY 2021 Attestation support or for more information, please contact us at [ep2info@nyehealth.org](mailto:ep2info@nyehealth.org).