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NEWS BRIEF | 05.27.10

The ONC expands NHIN to support HIE reform

The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) is in the process of widening the National Health Information Network (NHIN) capabilities in order to accommodate a larger number of technologies and exchange models. The NHIN is a combination of standards, services and policies that serve as the backbone for the ability to exchange health information safely and meaningfully for the improvement of healthcare overall.

This expansion encourages providers and consumers alike to participate in Health Information Exchange, whether they need a simple mode of information exchange or a complex system.

Organizations that are currently using the NHIN have access to patient information among multiple providers, operate on common standards that support HIE and have established a level of trust among all involved parties through their documented understanding of the process.

The ONC created the NHIN Direct Project as an ongoing effort to identify the standards and services that will best allow for direct communication between providers. The NHIN Direct Project offers a wealth of resources and tools that all HIE participants are encouraged to take advantage of.

[Read the letter from the National Coordinator for Health IT >>](#)

[Read the full story >>](#)

Want to learn more?

Register for our June 2nd webinar on HIE:

Collaborative Health IT “CHIT CHAT” June 2, 2010 | 1:00- 2:30 p.m. CDT

Whether you are looking to lay the framework for Stage 1 meaningful use or taking steps to formalize HIE collaborations and technology partnerships that will lead to more broad exchange, this program will explore:

- The evolution, benefits and future of HIE
- HITECH Act requirements, grant funding and other resources for HIE
- Key technology players and considerations
- Experiences from several early HIE organizers

FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Lynn Dunbrack, Program Director, IDC Health Insights



Rick Krohn, President, HealthSense

- Best practice recommendations for success and pitfalls to avoid



Anne Byers, e-Health and Community Information Technology Manager, NITC

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Deb Bass, Interim Executive Director, NeHI; CCHIT HIE Workgroup Member



Peggy Evans, Director, Washington and Idaho Regional Extension Center



Nathan Tudor, CEO/Administrator, Stonewall Memorial Hospital

CMS Releases Changes to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are requesting public comments on the recent changes made to the provider enrollment, ordering and referral documentation requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Under the changes, providers must:

1. Include NPIs on all Medicare/Medicaid enrollment applications, claims and agreements.
2. Relinquish any referring orders to a Medicare contractor provider upon request.
3. Retain all documentation of referrals for seven years after the actual date of service.
4. Include the name of the referring physician and their NPI on all claims submitted for imaging, lab, and/or specialist services.

All public comment must be sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by July 6 at 5 p.m.

[View the final rule >>](#)

[Read the full article >>](#)

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