



Scope of e-Health Planning Efforts

Technology used to support health-related functions is broadly known as health information technology (health IT). Electronic health records (EHR) are used to collect and store all of the relevant patient health information. Health information exchange (HIE) involves sharing sections of the EHRs across the boundaries of individual practice and institutional health care settings. The collaborative effort to plan and promote the adoption and use of EHRs, and to share health data through an electronic HIE, has come to be known as the Iowa e-Health Project.

Vision

Our vision is for a healthier Iowa through the use and exchange of electronic health information to improve patient centered health care and population health.

This initiative will produce a public good that will:

- Improve quality of health care
- Assure patient safety
- Increase efficiency in health care delivery
- Promote and protect the health of Iowans

Guiding Principles

- Engage in a collaborative, public-private, multi-stakeholder effort
- Create a sustainable health information exchange which makes information available when and where it is needed
- Ensure the system incorporates provider priorities and appropriate user education
- Instill confidence in consumers that their health care information is secure, private, and accessed appropriately
- Build on smart practices and align with federal standards to ensure interoperability within and beyond the state

Goal 1: Build awareness and trust of health IT

Objectives:

- 1.1 Establish program branding and identity
- 1.2 Develop a communication plan for stakeholders

Goal 2: Promote statewide deployment and use of EHRs and HIE

Objectives:

- 2.1 Identify barriers and develop strategies to increase statewide adoption
- 2.2 Provide technical support to providers adopting EHRs and participating in HIE



Goal 3: Enable the electronic exchange of health information

Objectives:

- 3.1 Assess current provider capabilities and preferences
- 3.2 Assess and expand network capacity and access
- 3.3 Research smart practices and lessons learned from other HIE implementations
- 3.4 Build a hybrid infrastructure model
- 3.5 Establish processes and technology to locate and match patient information
- 3.6 Establish security controls to authenticate users and monitor system activity
- 3.7 Develop technical standards for interoperability, privacy, security and disaster recovery
- 3.8 Engage in proof of concept projects to prepare for pilot implementations
- 3.9 Assess barriers for connecting clinic and population health systems

Goal 4: Safeguard privacy and security of electronic health information

Objectives:

- 4.1 Develop a privacy and security framework
- 4.2 Establish privacy and security policies and procedures for pilot HIE implementations
- 4.3 Assess potential risks and liabilities to providers and consumers
- 4.4 Formulate data sharing strategies and data use agreements

Goal 5: Build an appropriately-trained, skilled health IT workforce

Objectives:

- 5.1 Define the HIT workforce and identify core competencies
- 5.2 Create or enhance training and education programs
- 5.3 Develop a workforce plan for HIT growth and recruitment

Goal 6: Develop a framework for implementation and sustainability of health IT

Objectives:

- 6.1 Research business models and develop a business plan
- 6.2 Research financial models and develop a financial plan
- 6.3 Explore governance options and establish a governance entity
- 6.4 Develop a plan for implementation of the HIE infrastructure

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