

EHR NEWS FLASH

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2009

Community health
providers in
partnership

Special points of
interest:

- Minnesota in the News
- So what's going on
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April was indeed a huge month for The Network. We officially kicked-off our EHR Implementation at LaClinica, a member of West Side Community Health Services (WCHS). The kick-off was led by The Alliance of Chicago Community Health Services.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a high-level overview of the EHR implementation process.

The items discussed included:

- ◆ *Organizational Roles for an EHR Project*
- ◆ *Vision, Goals, and Resources related to EHR Implementation*
- ◆ *Performance Measurement and Reporting Goals*
- ◆ *Clinical Content Framework and Planning*

In the month of May, our Project Manager, Tanya Larson and I went to selected clinics to conduct site assessments for each organization to assess the following areas:

- ◆ *EHR Planning and Management Capacity*
- ◆ *Clinical operations*
- ◆ *Clinical and Technical Capacity*
- ◆ *Determine readiness for organization change*

Our Clinical Leadership Team, comprised of providers and staff from each participating organization, was formed this month to provide clinical decision making and clinical content material for EHR implementation.

Working together as a collaboration provides us the opportunity to create synergy, share clinical expertise, and develop strong relationships within community health care.

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Minnesota in the News

HealthPartners Inc. has started offering a service that allows its members to transfer their medical records into Microsoft HealthVault, an online health-records tool.

The deal means that about 1.2 million members of Bloomington, Minn.-based HealthPartners will be able to permanently access their health information and share it free of charge, even if they change jobs, health plans or doctors.

Friday's joint announcement between the two companies was made at the Microsoft Connected Health Conference in Bellevue.

The HealthVault system is designed to help consumers manage their health information and make better choices to improve their health, said David Cerino, general manager of the Consumer Health Solutions Group at Redmond-based **Microsoft Corp.** (NASDAQ: MSFT).

<http://www.bizjournals.com/seattle/stories/2009/06/01/daily61.html>

Pat Geraghty, president and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

ST. PAUL, MN – Minnesotans will soon have access to a virtual clinic, thanks to a partnership between Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and American Well.

American Well's Online Care will provide Minnesotans with live interactions with physicians and other medical care providers. The virtual clinics at the worksite will emphasize treatment for common illnesses, monitor care for patients with chronic illnesses and offer preventive and wellness care.

Online Care will be rolled out to Blue Cross' 10,000 employees and family members at the company's campuses in Eagan and Virginia, Minn. Blue Cross will then evaluate Online Care with the intention of making it available to employer groups and additional consumers as soon as 2010.

"We believe that in order to get healthcare costs under control, respond to consumer needs and reshape healthcare delivery for the future, that new care models are critical," said Pat Geraghty, president and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. "We can't continue to deliver care the same way we have been doing for years and expect the cost and access equation to change. That's why we are bringing Online Care to Minnesota."

For complete article:

<http://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/minnesotans-receive-access-virtual-clinic>

Minnesota in the News

Minnesota portal targets e-claims deadline

Consortium of health plans hire IGI to roll out Web-based system for provider filings

A consortium of health plans in Minnesota is rolling out a Web-based system that will let providers submit insurance claims electronically to comply with a July 15 legislative deadline. The Minnesota Council of Health Plans tapped Infotech Global Inc. (IGI) to power the system, called MN E-Connect, which serves as a Web portal that lets providers file medical, hospital and dental claims.

The July deadline is a part of the state's E3 Initiative, which stems from a 2008 Minnesota law that seeks to standardize and automate health care transactions. Most providers already submit claims electronically, but 17 percent of providers file paper claims, said Eileen Smith, communications and public relations director of the council. The council gave IGI a list of those providers, and the company is now registering them so they can use the Web system. About 500 providers have registered so far. However, IGI Chief Information Officer Sita Kapoor said many offices have multiple practitioners on staff, and the company "won't know the exact number until we reach out to them."

Claims submission via MN E-Connect begins on July 1, Kapoor said. The system is based on IGI's Orbit software, which can be used for both custom and packaged portal solutions. MN E-Connect complements other state e-health efforts such as the Minnesota Health Information Exchange. Covisint provides the technology platform for that statewide exchange.

Smith said the MN E-Connect and the HIE are not yet linked, noting that the HIE focuses on clinical data exchange. IGI, based in Piscataway, N.J., develops health IT solutions with an emphasis on connecting trading partners. The Minnesota Council of Health Plans includes Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, FirstPlan of Minnesota, HealthPartners, Medica, Metropolitan Health Plan, PreferredOne, Sanford Health Plan and UCare.

<http://govhealthit.com/Articles/2009/06/03/Minn-portal-targets-eclaims-deadline.aspx?p=1>

So what's going on?



ONC's Friedman discusses defining 'meaningful use'

A formal definition of “meaningful use” of electronic health records is in the works and should be released in the not-too-distant future, Charles Friedman, deputy national coordinator of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, said at a health IT conference.

Meaningful use is significant in that it “changes the focus from technology potential to ways in which clinicians actually use” electronic health records, Friedman said during the Government Health IT conference and exhibition, sponsored by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. It's also a key mechanism to trigger payment incentives for those using the technology.

In Friedman's definition, a “meaningful user” is someone who uses a certified electronic health record, exchanges health information, and reports on quality measures.

In other developments, adoption of standards and certification criteria for the electronic exchange and use of health information is expected take place on Dec. 31 of this year, Friedman said. At least four of six grant programs under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (the health IT component of the stimulus law) will be formally announced sometime soon, and a revision of HHS' strategic plan on health IT adoption is also under development, he said.

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090604/REG/306049963/1153>

EHR Terminology word of the month:

e-Health: The use of information technology to improve the delivery of healthcare. E-Health is an emerging field in the intersection of medical informatics, public health and business, referring to health services and information delivered or enhanced through technologies.

Source: MDH

HIT Events

The Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota e-Health Initiative present:



Minnesota e-Health Summit 2009

Strategies for Success

in Challenging Economic Times

Thursday, June 25, 2009, 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Northland Inn - Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Pre-Summit Workshop

The Road to Effective Use of EHRs in Minnesota

Wednesday, June 24, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Industry Expo open Wednesday 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Thursday 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Summit Objective

The purpose of the Summit is to provide participants tools and resources to guide success in implementing EHRs and HIT in the current economic climate. Examples of national and Minnesota e-health activities will highlight the challenges faced and strategies used to overcome them. The Summit will advance the effort to meet the mandate to achieve interoperable EHRs by 2015 and optimize the incentives offered with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and other opportunities.

Registration

Register on-line or for more information at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health>

Fun Facts and More

Did you know?



Minneapolis's name was derived from a combination of Sioux and Greek words meaning "city of waters". No name could suit the area better; 22 lakes exist within the city limits and afford Minneapolis the nickname "City of Lakes".

Minnesota Firsts



- * The first bone marrow transplant was performed at the University of Minnesota Hospital.
- * The nation's first Better Business Bureau (BBB) was founded in Minneapolis in 1912.
- * In 1956, Southdale, in the Minneapolis suburb of Edina, was the first enclosed climate-controlled suburban Shop50states.

And now, a little technology humor.....



Note: The EHR News Flash newsletter is scheduled to be published monthly. The link will be available on the NHCN website at: www.nhcn.org under EHR News Flash.

If you have informative articles or ideas that you would like to be included in the EHR News Flash (**ENF**), please forward your information and email to: Morrcellia.Columbus@nhcn.org.

Thank You for you support!

NHCN

Our Journey begins...

