

Minnesota Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) Project/Contract Executive Summary

Purpose of the Contract

To examine privacy and security laws and business practices within Minnesota that affect the ability to exchange electronic health information (e.g., electronic medical records, e-prescribing, etc.). HISPC is one of four initiatives directed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to advance the national health information network (<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2005pres/20051110.html>.) Minnesota will request \$350,000 under a sub-contract from Research Triangle Institute (RTI and the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices serve as the prime contractors for US DHHS), for the period of performance, April 24, 2006 – March 30, 2007. Contract bids are due March 1, 2006.

Minnesota HISPC Contract Approach and Strategy

Minnesota will utilize existing committees and the professional expertise of MDH staff and partners in the Minnesota e-Health Initiative to successfully complete the terms and produce the deliverables of the contract. The Minnesota HISPC proposal designates the Minnesota e-Health Advisory Committee (established under MN Stat. 62J.495 to advise the Commissioner of Health) to act as the Steering Committee and provide oversight for the project. The Minnesota e-Health Initiative network and infrastructure led by MDH staff will enable the HISPC project to draw on resources and expertise in the health informatics, health care, health and health services research and public health communities. Additionally, the Initiative has an established list of 600 interested persons, who will serve as the basis of the Minnesota stakeholder community for this project.

HISPC Contract Activities

In addition to the Steering Committee (See Figure 1, below), the Minnesota HISPC project will create a Variations Work Group, a Legal Work Group, a Solutions Work Group, and an Implementation Plan Work Group to complete the following key activities:

- Examine privacy and security policies and business practices regarding electronic health information exchange and the current legal requirements in the state that may be driving those policies.
- Identify challenges that privacy and security policies might pose to interoperable health information exchange.
- Identify best practices and solutions for maintaining privacy and security protections while enabling operation of a health information network.
- Develop an implementation plan to address organization-level business practices and state laws that affect privacy and security practices in order to permit interoperable health information exchange.

Membership for all work groups will ensure strong connection with and oversight from the Steering Committee, the inclusion of legal, business analysis, privacy, security, and technical subject matter experts, representatives from the various states agencies involved in the Health Cabinet, and representation from a broad range of Minnesota stakeholders. The Minnesota HISPC project will also establish Consumer, IT/Technical and Communication work groups to focus on inherent characteristics of the Minnesota health information security and privacy environment, and serve as forums for stakeholder input and review.

HISPC project staff will participate in regional workshops and national meetings with other states to share knowledge and collaborate on health information exchange privacy and security issues and related issues. RTI International will integrate the assessment, analyses and implementation plans produced by Minnesota and other states into set of national analyses and solutions supporting national health information exchange.

Figure 1: Minnesota: Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) Proposal - Key Partners

