

Office of Health Information Technology

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) was established in September, 2009 to incorporate new responsibilities resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act with existing activities of the Center for Health Informatics, established in 2002.

Key responsibilities of OHIT include:

- Implementing the e-health responsibilities assigned to the Department of Health under Minnesota Statutes § 62J.495 - .62J.4982.
- Planning and implementing of *Minnesota e-Health Connect*, Minnesota's project under Section 3013 of the HITECH Act, including the development and implementation of Minnesota's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange to expand the secure, electronic movement of health information.
- Collaborating with health care providers and other stakeholders to ensure Minnesota's health and care community can take full advantage of Federal funding and incentive programs;
- Convening stakeholders to create a comprehensive and unified vision for adoption and effective use of electronic health records and health information exchange in Minnesota;
- Collaborating with other Federally-funded programs designed to promote the adoption and use of electronic health records (e.g., Regional Extension Centers and Medicare and Medicaid Incentive programs);
- Coordinating across state government to maximize federal and state investments in health information technology and infrastructure, including coordination with the Department of Human Services, the Department Of Corrections and the Department of Administration.
- Provide leadership, consultation, knowledge and advice on health informatics, and health policy related to adoption, effective use and exchange of health information technology across the continuum of health and health care within MDH as well as across the continuum of care.

Programs Supported by OHIT

Minnesota e-Health Initiative



The Minnesota e-Health Initiative is a public-private initiative guided by a statutory Advisory Committee, whose 26 members represent key stakeholders, including healthcare providers, payers, public health professionals, and consumers.

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health>

The vision for the Minnesota e-Health Initiative is to improve healthcare quality, increase patient safety, reduce costs, and improve public health through the accelerated and effective use of health information technology. The Minnesota e-Health Initiative seeks to:

- **Empower consumers** by supporting the development and adoption of personal health records;
- **Inform and connect healthcare providers** by promoting the adoption and use of interoperable Electronic Health Records and electronic health information exchange;
- **Protect communities and improve public health** by advancing efforts to use information technology to improve our ability to rapidly detect threats to a community's health; and to
- **Modernize the infrastructure** by adopting universal standards for health information exchange; revising state statutes and organizational policies to ensure strong privacy and security protection of health information; ensuring adequate private and public funding; and assessing and monitoring progress.

MN e-Health Initiative Workgroups 2010-2011

- Standards and Interoperability Workgroup
- Health Information Exchange Workgroup
- Adoption and Meaningful Use Workgroup
- Communications and Outreach Workgroup
- Privacy, Legal and Policy Workgroup



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Health Information Exchange Program

MN e-Health Connect Project

The Minnesota e-Health Connect program, builds upon the previous six year effort of the Minnesota e-Health Initiative. Enabling the secure exchange of health information among health care stakeholders is essential to realizing the broad mission of the Minnesota e-Health Initiative. The Minnesota e-Health Connect program will utilize a multi-tiered governance structure that encompasses much of the existing e-Health infrastructure with new aspects of health information exchange oversight.

Health Information Exchange Oversight

The new law which goes into effect on July 1, 2010, establishes new certification requirements and state agency oversight for businesses conducting Health Information Exchange (HIE) in Minnesota. This creates a new formal oversight process to ensure that entities involved in HIE in Minnesota are adhering to nationally recognized standards that will allow Minnesota providers and hospitals the opportunity to receive incentives for achieving “meaningful use” of electronic health records under federal law.

Health Informatics Program

Assessment and Evaluation activities include efforts to establish and maintain statewide e-health profile of the adoption, and use of electronic health records and the secure exchange and interoperability of health information. Responsibilities include organizing, executing and evaluating research and assessment activities and correlating findings from a variety of research sources and reports.

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/assessment.html>

Standards and Interoperability activities include directing the statewide program for Minnesota e-health standards and monitoring national data, terminology and process standards, assessing the health industry’s readiness for adoption of standards statewide, and understanding the factors associated with adoption and use of standards for exchange of health information.

Informatics Collaboration and Leadership activities include providing scientific and informatics technical expertise to health and health care information system projects and studies to ensure effective informatics methodologies are used in the analysis, design, development, modification and procurement of information systems and in improving work processes.

OHIT Team and Contact Information

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- Health Information Exchange Workgroup

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- HIT assessment and informatics project support
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- Communications & Outreach Workgroup

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- Office coordination and support
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- Health Information Exchange Oversight Program
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Learn More About OHIT:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpsc/ohit/index.html>

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/index.html>

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