

Getting Leadership on Board: Helping Your Board (and Other Key Leaders) Understand Their Role in HIT

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Objectives

- Orienting your board members (and other key leaders) regarding health information technology
 - The compelling case for the value of technology in improving quality and patient safety
 - National and state perspectives on key health information technology issues and hot topics
 - Minnesota's infrastructure and activity in HIT
- Pose key questions for board members (and other key leaders) to be asking



Health care – playing technology catch up?

- Most other industries have been more advanced in using technology...health care is playing catch up
- Institute of Medicine's 1999 report *To Err is Human*
 - Medical errors a leading cause of death and injury in hospitals
 - Sources of errors and safety systems needed
- President's Information Technology Advisory Committee
 - Potential of IT to improve care while reducing costs
 - "The most remarkable feature of 21st century medicine is that we hold it together with 19th century paperwork."



So what do we mean by technology?

Let's make sure we're on the same page:

- HIT = health information technology
- EHR = electronic health record
- PHR = personal health record
- HIE = health information exchange
- Legacy systems = multiple different systems and interfaces that have evolved over time



Why is health information technology so important?

Improve and sustain quality and patient safety:

- Patient allergies, lab and test results, medication management
- Emergency department visits
- Disasters – 35W bridge collapse, southeastern Minnesota floods



What are the key issues and hot topics right now?

- Moving beyond implementation to *optimization* of EHRs
 - Unreliable quality of data and not using EHRs to the full capability
 - Quality measure tracking, reporting, improvement
- Preparing for health information exchange
 - Lack of standards and interoperability but emerging certification (CCHIT)
 - Multiple demands for data



Key issues and hot topics (continued)

- Ensuring privacy and security
 - Ensuring HIPAA compliance while meeting patient care needs
- Understanding the patient/consumer role in HIT
 - Very little research in this area
 - Role for PHRs?
- Addressing lack of IT support
 - Experts needed but not always available
- Understanding the Stark rule



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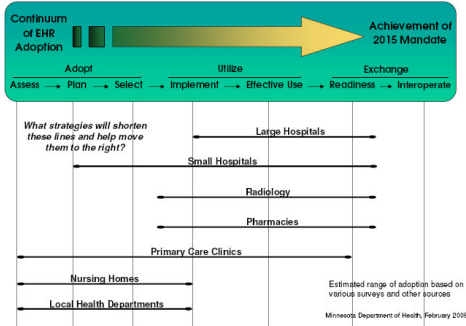
What is the landscape in Minnesota?

- Legislatively mandated goal of statewide adoption of EHR and interoperable health exchange by 2015 in Minnesota
- Minnesota eHealth Initiative
 - State appointed Advisory Committee with broad stakeholder representation
 - Moving from statewide vision (2004-2006) to implementation (2007 and future)
 - Sponsors annual eHealth Summit
 - » Excellent learning and networking opportunity
 - www.health.state.mn.us/e-health



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Adopting Interoperable Electronic Health Records



Minnesota landscape (continued)

- Minnesota Department of Health
 - MN legislature appropriated total of \$15.3 million for 2006-2008 to support adoption and effective use of EHRs
 - Emphasis on interoperable EHRs in rural and underserved areas
 - » Community clinics, rural hospitals, rural clinics, nursing facilities
 - Loans: \$3.1 million total available, \$1.5 million cap, no interest, up to six years to re-pay
 - Grants: \$3.5 million in grants awarded in 2007



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Minnesota landscape (continued)

- Health information exchanges
 - MN-HIE (Minnesota-Health Information Exchange) announced in October 2007
 - » Sponsors: Allina, Blue Cross Blue Shield MN, HealthPartners, Medica, State of Minnesota
 - » Initial focus on exchanging medication history in emergency departments
 - Growing number of regional exchanges in MN
 - » Community Health Information Collaborative



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What should a leader to do?

- Ask good questions of the expert staff:
- What is the technology budget, and is it adequately meeting the patients' needs?
 - Do you have an EHR, and is it CCHIT certified (if available)?
 - How is your organization using technology to improve quality and patient safety?
 - With whom is your organization exchanging data, and are appropriate privacy and security precautions in place?
 - Are you taking advantage of state grants and loans to advance your HIT use?



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