

# Getting the Information Needed for Better Health

USING ELECTRONIC HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN MINNESOTA

## Why should providers electronically exchange health information?

Electronic health information exchange (HIE) allows individuals, caregivers, providers, communities and populations to have the right information, at the right time, in the right format to make the best possible health decisions. The timely sharing of health information helps advance population health and improve performance in value-based or other alternative payment models such as accountable care organizations (ACOs) or Integrated Health Partnerships (IHPs) - Minnesota's Medicaid ACOs.

## What are the HIE options in Minnesota?

Using a State-Certified HIE Service Provider will help providers and organizations get the health information needed. Options include:

- Connecting directly to a Health Information Organization (HIO), or
- Connecting to an HIO through a Health Data Intermediary (HDI), or
- Establishing and meeting requirements to be an HIO with data-sharing partners.

These connections may also help providers meet the [Minnesota Interoperable Electronic Health Record Mandate](http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/hitimp/index.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/hitimp/index.html>) which requires connection to an HIO.

## What are HIOs and HDIs?

Health care organizations, HIE vendors, and other organizations may be certified as an HIO or HDI in Minnesota under the state's oversight program. The [HIE Oversight Law](http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/hie/oversight.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/hie/oversight.html>) details the two certifications available.

- An HIO is an organization that oversees, governs, and facilitates HIE among healthcare providers from unrelated healthcare organizations;
- An HDI is an entity that provides the technical capabilities, or related products and services, to enable HIE among healthcare providers from unrelated healthcare organizations.

## How will HIOs and HDIs move information within communities and across the state?

Minnesota certification requires HIOs to connect to all other HIOs and HDIs to connect to at least one HIO. They also participate in the Minnesota Health Information Network (MNHIN) to help recommend infrastructure design and implementation guidance to increase interoperability. While the connections among HIOs and HDIs are not yet fully in place, progress is being made on identifying what information needs to be exchanged among them. This network-of-networks approach will eventually provide the ability to share information between providers, across the state, and throughout the country.

## How will HIOs and HDIs support providers and organizations?

Although exchanging information among providers and organizations remains somewhat challenging, Minnesota and other states are moving forward. If every provider and organization is connected to an HIO, most, if not all, needed information can be exchanged across the state.

While initial HIE investments may be easier for organizations with more resources, Minnesota's approach helps ensure that any provider or organization connected to an HIO or HDI will:

- use nationally recognized exchange standards for all transactions
- have multiple options from a level playing field; may require more time to define needs and select the best option(s) but may also ease disruption if an HIO/HDI leaves the market;
- have HIO and/or HDI options that can respond to local or regional community needs through encouraging private sector and market-driven innovation.
- know that their HIO or HDI is collaborating and coordinating with other state-certified providers.

## How can organizations use HIE to help meet value-based payment requirements?

HIE is considered a critical component of value-based payment arrangements. The [Minnesota Health Information Exchange Framework and Guidance to Support Accountable Health](http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/hie/docs/hieframework.pdf) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/hie/docs/hieframework.pdf>) is a tool to assess an organization's current HIE status and can be used as a starting point to

create a strategy to meet future needs. The Minnesota HIE Framework Checklist, is a tool to identify gaps in HIE functions and capabilities.

## Resources

Available resources for HIE include:

- [Connecting Health and Care for the Nation](https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/hie-interoperability/nationwide-interoperability-roadmap-final-version-1.0.pdf) (<https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/hie-interoperability/nationwide-interoperability-roadmap-final-version-1.0.pdf>)
- [The Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap: A Year in Review](https://www.healthit.gov/year-in-review) (<https://www.healthit.gov/year-in-review>)
- [Minnesota e-Health Roadmap](http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/roadmap/index.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/roadmap/index.html>)

## Minnesota e-Health Initiative

Minnesota has been an e-health leader through the [Minnesota e-Health Initiative](http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/initiative/index.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/initiative/index.html>). Established in 2004, the Initiative is a public-private collaboration that recommends policies and practices to accelerate adoption of e-health and to achieve interoperability.

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