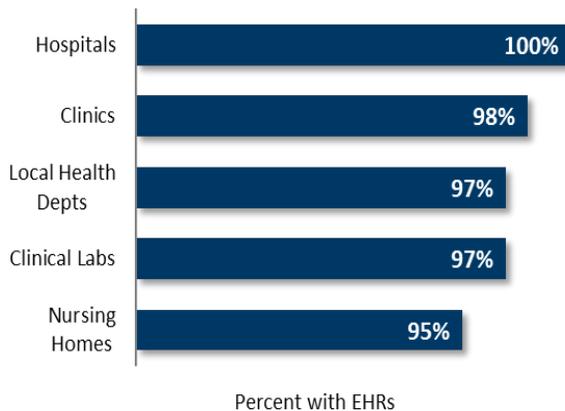


Office of Health Information Technology and e-Health

Supporting Healthier Communities with e-Health

The Office of Health Information Technology and e-Health (OHIT) provides leadership and uses the science of public health informatics to advance the use of technology, information & knowledge to improve the health of individuals and communities.

E-health is the adoption and effective use of electronic health record (EHR) systems and other health information technology (HIT) to improve health care quality, increase patient safety, reduce health care costs, and enable individuals and communities to make the best possible health decisions. E-health supports community and population health. In addition, it provides information to understand and address health equity and social determinants of health.



All of Minnesota's hospitals and 97% of ambulatory clinics have adopted EHR systems. Still more work is needed for advancing e-health in other settings and to support advanced and efficient patient care, care coordination, decision support, and timely public health surveillance.

How OHIT Supports Health in Minnesota

OHIT advances e-health and public health informatics by collaborating both within and outside the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Externally focused activities include the Minnesota e-Health Initiative, HIE certification, e-health standards recommendations, health reform activities associated with the Minnesota Accountable Health Model, and expertise on a variety of e-health and public health informatics topics. Internal to MDH, OHIT staff collaborate with other units, programs, and divisions to support e-health and public health informatics activities to promote statewide public health.

Public health informatics is the application of computer and information sciences to managing and processing health data and information. OHIT staff support public health informatics needs in these ways:

- Collaboration and leadership: providing scientific and technical expertise to ensure effective public health informatics techniques are used in the analysis, design, development, modification, and acquisition of information systems and in improving work processes.
- Assessment and evaluation: measuring progress of e-health implementation and HIE activity among health and healthcare providers across the state.
- Standards and interoperability: supporting the adoption and use of nationally recognized standards to support health information exchange and interoperability.

OHIT's Statewide Collaboration Minnesota e-Health Initiative

The Minnesota e-Health Initiative is a public-private collaborative created to help advance e-health. The Initiative's vision is to accelerate the adoption and use of HIT in order to improve health care quality, increase patient safety, reduce health care costs, and improve public health.

OHIT staff coordinate the Initiative's work and a legislatively authorized Advisory Committee guides the Initiative. The Committee includes stakeholders who represent the variety of Minnesota's health community including providers, payers, public health, researchers, vendors, and consumers. The Committee advises the Commissioner of Health on e-health policy issues and provides recommendations, insight, and guidance to the community.

Health Information Exchange Oversight Program

Minnesota supports a market-based strategy for secure HIE that allows for private sector innovation and initiative, yet uses government oversight to ensure fair practices, sustainability, and compliance with state and federal privacy, security, and consent laws. Operated by OHIT, Minnesota's HIE Oversight Program (M.S. §§62J.498-4982) was established to ensure that all Minnesota health care providers can exchange patient data securely and seamlessly, following state and national standards, to provide high quality care for patients, reduce costs, support healthy communities, and meet Minnesota's interoperability requirements. Under the oversight law, MDH certifies organizations that provide a range of HIE services and governance and ensure that standards and requirements are met.

Minnesota Accountable Health Model – SIM Minnesota

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation awarded the Minnesota Department of Human Services and MDH a State Innovation Model (SIM) grant to test the Minnesota Accountable Health Model. The Model is testing ways to deliver and pay for health care to achieve the Triple Aim. The Triple Aim vision is to improve consumer experience of care, improve population health, and lower per capita health care costs.

E-health is a key component of the SIM grant, which helps support health care providers to exchange clinical data in a secure manner for treatment, care coordination, quality improvement, and population health. OHIT's efforts focus on three initiatives:

1. Administer e-health grants to support secure exchange of medical- or health-related information between organizations.
2. Develop and disseminate the Minnesota e-Health Roadmap to advance the Minnesota Accountable Health Model for the settings of behavioral health, local public health, long-term and post-acute care, and social services.
3. Review e-health legal issues, and education surrounding privacy, security, and consent management for HIE.

More information on OHIT's programs supported by [SIM funding](http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/ehealthhealthreform.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/ehealthhealthreform.html>) is found on the website.

OHIT's Collaboration within MDH & other State Agencies

Public Health Program Interoperability

The rapid adoption of HIT among Minnesota's providers has created a technical "gap" between MDH and the health care community. Public health programs at MDH are experiencing a growing demand from health care providers to stay current with the private sector trends of electronically moving health information.

To support MDH programs' effort to make the move to the electronic, standardized receiving and sending of health data, OHIT has conducted assessments of (program) readiness for HIE and interoperability. OHIT staff provides consultation for programs on electronic data exchange and shares resources that support an approach to MDH interoperability that is secure, coordinated, uses appropriate data standards, meets state and federal privacy laws, and aligns with best practices.

Meaningful Use Coordination

OHIT provides support and technical assistance to MDH programs that are accepting data from health care providers participating in the federal EHR incentive program commonly known as meaningful use. This includes coordination and management of the online registration system for providers

as well as education and technical assistance related to the standards and other requirements for meaningful use data submission. OHIT coordinates communications between the meaningful use programs and facilitates the sharing of resources, general knowledge and best practices. OHIT staff are also involved in national meaningful use groups and activities to monitor and share pertinent resources with MDH programs.

OHIT in Action:

- Sends weekly updates to more than 5,000 providers regarding research, information, and training on the latest local and national e-health issues
- Develops and issue annual consensus based e-health standards, policy, and technical guidance
- Provides leadership, technical assistance, consultation, knowledge, and advice on public health informatics and e-health across the continuum of health and health care and within MDH
- Collaborates with health care providers and stakeholders to ensure Minnesota's health care community can take full advantage of federal funding and incentive programs
- Assembles stakeholders to create a complete and unified vision for e-health and health information exchange (HIE) in Minnesota

Statutory Responsibilities

OHIT is responsible for implementing the e-health responsibilities assigned to MDH under law relating to electronic HIT, the electronic prescription drug program, and HIE oversight (Minnesota Statutes §§62J.495 - 62J.4982).

Minnesota Department of Health
Office of Health Information Technology
PO Box 64882, St. Paul, MN 55164-0882
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health>
mn.ehealth@state.mn.us

06/13/2017



*To obtain this information in a different format, call:
651-201-5979. Printed on recycled paper.*