

November 2008

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SD in the News

eHealth Collaborative Final Report ([eHealth.dsu.edu](http://www.eHealth.dsu.edu)) (11/20)

South Dakota hospitals receive grants for IT projects (Healthcare IT News) (11/14)

South Dakota uses IT to improve rural health care (Healthcare IT News) (10/27)

Upcoming Events

November 26, 2008
CMS EHR Demo application period closes

March 18 & 19, 2009
eHealth Collaborative Spring Meeting in Chamberlain at the AmericInn (more info to follow)

May 14, 2009
Treatment Group Kickoff Meeting in Pierre

CMS EHR Demo Update

The South Dakota eHealth Collaborative is in the final stages of recruitment for the CMS EHR Demo Project. Applications are due Wednesday, November 26.

SD is one of 12 nationwide sites chosen to implement this innovative project. The project pays financial incentives to small-to-medium sized primary care physician practices for implementing an Electronic Health Record. Financial incentives are up to \$58,000 per provider or up to \$290,000 for clinics with multiple providers. Clinics do not have to have an Electronic Health Record in place to apply, and likewise those who already have an EHR are also eligible.

The application process is straightforward – taking approximately 15-20 minutes. Clinics are encouraged to mail applications certified to ensure delivery by the application due date. CMS has already started to process applications and will announce the participants in March of 2009. For more information visit www.ehealth.dsu.edu.

Vermont (excerpt from the National Conference for State Legislatures website)

Vermont is taking steps to help its small practice physicians adopt health information technology (IT). In June 2008, the Legislature passed **HB 891**, the **Health IT Fund**, to establish HIE infrastructure and increase the use of EMRs from 13 to 50 percent by 2011. It will be administered by the state Agency of Administration (AOA) and advisory board.

The Health IT Fund will be supported through a quarterly fee of 0.199 of one percent on all health care claims by health insurers and third party administrators who run employer's self-insured plans in the state. The state Medicaid program will also make an annual payment to the fund, of a yet to be determined amount. The Health IT Fund is "transitional" and will operate until 2015 when the health IT infrastructure is in place. Through the fund, the state expects to raise \$32 million.

Vermont faces two obstacles in EMR adoption: cost and a reluctance to invest in health IT. State government entities and **VITL** will be able to draw money from the Health IT Fund to pay for health information technology programs, including:

- A grant program to help primary care practitioners purchase and implement EMRs and practice management systems;
- Building a statewide health information exchange network;
- Technical assistance from VITL to help practitioners reengineer their clinical processes to fully utilize electronic health records.

VITL has been conducting a \$1 million pilot project with five independent primary care practices to evaluate the implementation EHR systems. Any provider receiving state funding will be required to link up with the state wide health information exchange network and demonstrate effective use of the EMR. The state estimates the Health IT Fund's investments will provide a net savings of \$320 million over 10 years.

To view the complete article visit: [Investing in Health Information Technology: Vermont creates an E-Fund](#)

To learn more about Vermont's efforts visit:

- [VITL EHR Pilot Project Reaches Major Milestone](#)
- [Vermont's Legislature Establishes Health IT Fund](#)
- [Health records swap said to save money, lives State poised to gain from new medical info exchange](#)

Rhode Island (excerpt from the NGA Center for Best Practices website)

SPOTLIGHT on State Health Information Exchange Efforts

Minnesota

[Minnesota e-Health Initiative Roadmap and Preliminary Recommendations for Strategic Action—January 2005 2006 Recommendations](#)

Vermont

[Vermont Information Technology Leaders \(VITL\)](#)
[Vermont Information Technology Plan: Strategies for Developing a Health Information Exchange](#)

Wisconsin

[Board for eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety](#)
[Wisconsin eHealth Action Plan Components](#)

Links

eHealth Initiative The Cornerstone

US Health & Human Services
September newsletter

AHIC

American Health Information
Community

AHRQ

Agency for Healthcare Research and
Quality

HHS

U.S. Department of Health & Human
Services

ONC

Office of the National Coordinator

HITSP

Healthcare Information Technology
Standards Panel

SLHIE

State-level Health Information
Exchange Consensus Project

NHIN

National Health Information Network

HRSA

Health Resources and Services
Administration

NCSL

National Conference on State
Legislatures

Governor Don Carcieri has signed the [Rhode Island Health Information Exchange Act of 2008 \(SB 2679\)](#), creating strong patient privacy and data security protections for information that will be shared through [CurrentCare](#)—Rhode Island's HIE. The legislation goes into effect in March 2009.

Consumer protections in the new law include:

- A specification that participation in the HIE is voluntary—both consumers and providers choose whether or not to participate;
- The ability to obtain a copy of confidential health information from the HIE;
- The ability to obtain a copy of a Disclosure Report relating to access of a patient's confidential health information through the HIE;
- Notification of breach of security of the HIE consistent with the RI identity theft law;
- The right to terminate participation in the HIE;
- The right to request that inaccurate information provided to the HIE be corrected through a provider;
- Oversight by the Department of Health;
- The creation of an HIE Advisory Commission to make recommendations to the Department of Health regarding the use of health information in the HIE; and
- Civil and criminal penalties for violation of the Act.

To view the complete article visit: [Rhode Island Governor Signs Health Information Exchange Act](#)

To learn more about Rhode Island SB 2679 visit:

- [New law to facilitate and safeguard sharing of patient information](#)
- [Accelerating Progress: Using Health Information Technology and Electronic Health Information Exchange to Improve Care: Recommendations of the State Alliance for e-Health](#)

Funding News

[Push To Digitize Health Records Needs Cash](#) (Hartford Business.com) (11/17)

[Twenty small hospitals working to interconnect](#) (Kansas Health Institute) (11/10)

[Medicare e-prescribing bonus set to begin Jan. 1](#) (Government Health IT) (10/31)

[Minnesota Doles Out I.T. Grants](#) (Health Data Management) (10/31)

[Doctors offered incentive for electronic Medicare prescriptions](#) (Dallas News) (10/31)

Governance News

[Certification commission chair predicts future for CCHIT under Obama](#) (Healthcare IT News) (11/14)

[Leavitt warns against losing health IT momentum](#) (Government Health IT) (11/13)

[Build data collection for business purposes into EHRs, HHS is advised](#) (Government Health IT) (11/13)

[AHIC ends its work, Kolodner lauds 'remarkable run'](#) (Healthcare IT News) (11/13)

[Congressional Democrats are drafting a new health IT bill](#) (Government Health IT) (10/29)

[Unique health ID numbers could reduce medical errors, increase patient privacy](#) (HealthImaging.com) (10/21)

Education News

[Survey: Hospital EHR adoption rate is below 12 percent](#) (Government Health IT) (11/12)

[CMS names four PHR vendors for Medicare pilot program](#) (Government Health IT) (11/10)

[Lessons from the HIE Front](#) (Health Data Management) (11/1)

[Health records swap said to save money, lives State poised to gain from new medical info exchange](#) (Rutland Herald) (10/19)

More News

[New federal study shows barriers to healthcare IT use](#) (Healthcare IT News) (11/13)

[IT shortages hamper health crisis response, say DHS execs](#) (Government Health IT) (11/14)

[Google tool aims to track flu trends](#) (Government Health IT) (11/6)

[Minnesota moves ahead on health IT initiatives](#) (Government Health IT) (11/6)