



# eHealth Collaborative Newsletter

June 2009

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## Upcoming Events

### September 16 & 17 2009

eHealth Collaborative Fall Meeting  
at the AmericInn in Chamberlain

### September 23-25 2009

SDAHO's 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall  
Convention at the Sioux Falls  
Convention Center

### October 8, 2009

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SD Health Information  
Technology Summit

## Telemedicine In the News

Health care to come to needy kids  
(Lubbockonline) (06/26)

FCC program could double California  
telehealth sites (Gov't Health IT)  
(06/26)

'Future of medicine' demonstrated at

## eHealth Collaborative Update

The South Dakota eHealth Collaborative will hold their summer meeting July 13, 2009. Collaborative members will meet via DDN from various locations around the state. The group will discuss several topics including; broadband access, upcoming eHealth Collaborative survey, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Collaborative will also hear about the upcoming SD Health Information Technology Summit. The Summit will be held in October and focus on health IT, physician implementation, and federal perspectives.

Site locations include Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Madison, Watertown, and Parkston. Attendees are asked to register online at the Collaborative's website by July 9, 2009. [Click here](#) to register.

Additional information can be found on the Collaborative's website  
<http://www.eHealth.dsu.edu>.

## AHRQ Seeks I.T. Workflow Options by Joseph Goedert- June 25, 2009

(HealthData Mgmt)

The ECRI Institute, a nonprofit research The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has issued a request for information on how clinics and physician practices redesign workflow when they adopt information technology.

AHRQ is considering development of an electronic toolkit, made available on the Internet, to assist small- and medium-sized practices in changing their workflow either before or after I.T. implementation.

"To assist small- and medium-sized medical practices or clinics considering implementation of any health IT, AHRQ is requesting information about tools, methods, technologies, and data reporting procedures that may be used to analyze and possibly improve the delivery of health care in such settings," according to the RFI. "From our perspective, these settings would include practices for which investment in health IT is financially burdensome and therefore regarded as high risk."

The agency, in particular, is looking for comments from practices that have implemented or are considering implementing I.T., software vendors, professional associations, and workflow or health I.T. experts.

AHRQ published the RFI on June 25 in the *Federal Register*, at [gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html](http://gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html). Comments are due by Aug. 24.

To view the full article online [click here](#).

## Transcript: Health Info Tech Coordinator David Blumenthal by Bob Davis - June 15, 2009 (Wall Street Journal)

National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Dr. David Blumenthal spoke with The Wall Street Journal's Bob Davis about how he plans to convince hospitals and doctors to computerize their records. Below is an edited transcript. \* \* \*

*The Wall Street Journal:* What's the potential for health information technology?

*Dr. Blumenthal:* There's no way to transform the health-care system without information technology. Today we use the same technology for recording health-care information that Hippocrates used. It defies logic that we will be able to get the best out of health information with sheaths of paper flying around by snail mail.

**Bunkie General Hospital (The Towntalk.com) (06/27)**

**Telehealth program connects rural clinics to bigger network (The Medesto Bee) (06/18)**

**N.J. hospital partners with Cardiocom to offer telemedicine services (HC IT News) (06/18)**

**Telehealth interventions helpful for cardiac patients (US News) (06/17)**

## SPOTLIGHT: State HIE Efforts

### Iowa

- Iowa Chapter of HIMSS
- Status of RHIO Activities in Iowa (Ppt presentation)
- Iowa Health IT State Profile
- Iowa eHealth Project
  - Iowa eHealth Project Overview

### New York

- NY DOH Health Information Technology – Office of Health Information Technology Transformation (OHITT)
- Healthcare Information Xchange New York (HIXNY)
- New York Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative
- NY Health IT State Profile
- NEW YORK AWARDS \$105 MILLION IN HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GRANTS
- *New York State Health Information Technology Policy Summit Initiative -- Interim Report*

### South Carolina

- SC State Profile
- South Carolina Health Information Exchange (SCHIE)
- South Carolina Launches Medicaid Health Information Exchange
- Joint Resolution: Joint Electronic Health Information Study Committee

## Links

- **\*\*\*HealthIT.hhs.gov\*\*\***
- **HIMSS STATE DASHBOARD**
- **eHealth Initiative**
- **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

*WSJ:* What are the potential cost savings?

*Dr. Blumenthal:* There are disputes about how much we'll save and how we'll show the benefits of health IT. The combination of an improved payment system, an improved education system about health IT and improved governance of the health care system that prioritizes quality and efficiency together with health information technology is where the real payoff is.

*WSJ:* How much money does the stimulus bill set aside from health IT?

*Dr. Blumenthal:* The stimulus bill sets aside \$2 billion for the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology to lay the groundwork for the adoption of health information. It also creates Medicare and Medicaid payment incentives for physicians who are "meaningful users" of health information technology. There will also be penalties for those who aren't "meaningful users" of health IT.

Estimates of the cost of those incentives and penalties vary. No one can tell you exactly how many physicians will use electronic health care records. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the federal government would spend \$29 billion on incentives, but it would produce savings of \$12 billion. Other saving estimates run higher.

*WSJ:* What will be the effect on doctor's offices?

*Dr. Blumenthal:* There's a good chance that the current funding will be enough to equip every doctor's office in America with electronic record keeping. I believe that physicians and many hospitals will come to the conclusion that in order to be an adequate professional and to hold their head up with other doctors, they're going to have to be able to manipulate health care records electronically.

[Click here](#) to view the rest of the interview online.

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## Funding News

**Administration: Hospitals unwilling to share electronic records will miss out on billions in stimulus funds (DallasNews.com) (06/24)**

**HIMSS predicts \$14.4B in hospital IT spending (Gov't Health IT) (06/17)**

**GE Announces Loans for Electronic Medical Records (BusinessWeek) (06/15)**

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## Governance News

**Quality forum seeks e-health quality specs (Gov't Health IT) (06/18)**

**AMA approves policies on security breaches, EHRs (Modern Healthcare) (06/17)**

**CCHIT proposes three certification paths (Gov't HealthIT) (06/17)**

**HHS panel charts ambitious course for health IT adoption (Gov't HealthIT) (06/16)**

**Prepare to meet "meaningful use" EMR requirement (amednews.com) (06/15)**

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## Education News

**Smaller medical practices get help with electronic records (nextgov) (06/25)**

**No vendor is perfect on 'meaningful use,' report concludes (HC IT News) (06/08)**

**Market for EMRs pegged at \$1.6 billion by 2013 (HC IT News) (06/04)**

**Electronic health records: Upfront costs now, \$36 billion payback (mlive.com) (06/02)**

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## Technology News

**Clinic data storage center could attract tech companies (MFN Herald) (06/24)**

**Sentillion announces two new contracts for expreSSO (HC IT News) (06/25)**

**HealthPartners offers Microsoft online records service (Puget Sound Business Journal) (06/05)**

**CIOs look to market for help, but IT vendors fall short (HC IT News) (06/02)**

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## More News

**Walla Walla Clinic takes big step into future: A conversion to electronic health records is seen as a major boost for safety and service (UB) (06/27)**

**Virtualization Delivers on Health Records Project: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center combines a big virtualization project with a critical electronic records rollout. (CIO Insight) (06/05)**

**Minnesota portal targets e-claims deadline (Gov't HealthIT) (06/03)**