



Introduction

The Kentucky Health Information Exchange (KHIE) offers the Commonwealth an unprecedented opportunity to advance health information technology and support healthcare providers with the sharing of patient records. Through coordinating the delivery of more efficient care via health information exchange, the KHIE will support improvement in patient health outcomes and population health. It can also assist healthcare providers to achieve meaningful use.

Background

President George W. Bush, in his State of the Union Address in 2004, directed the healthcare industry to implement electronic health records for all American citizens by 2014. Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher responded to this directive by facilitating the passage of Senate Bill 2 in 2005, which established the secure healthcare network that today is known as the 'Kentucky Health Information Exchange.' Senate Bill 2 established the eHealth Network Board, a collaboration of key stakeholders across the state (UK, UofL, the Cabinet for Health & Family Services) to develop the roadmap for this network.

Seed funding was secured in 2008 from a Medicaid Transformation Grant (\$4.8 million) to begin the technical development of KHIE. A vendor was selected and technical work began.

President Obama passed the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act in 2009, which included HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic & Clinical Health), which established the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program (Meaningful Use). Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear responded by issuing an Executive Order in August, 2009 establishing an agency in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) to oversee the advancement of health information exchange in Kentucky. Funding for this momentous task was received from both the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The first hospital went live on KHIE on April 1, 2010.

In addition to the funding opportunity, the ARRA provided a roadmap and guidance for the development and implementation of electronic health information systems transforming healthcare from paper records to electronic.





In 2010, under HITECH, Kentucky received over 9 million dollars to advance the use of electronic health information exchange and support eligible healthcare providers across the state in achieving meaningful use of certified technology. Eligible providers who demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHRs started receiving incentive payments in Kentucky beginning in January, 2011.

In light of the benefits and consequences to the healthcare providers and consumers alike, KHIE has a solid commitment to support statewide adoption of electronic health information exchange. To that end, KHIE provides a common, secure electronic information infrastructure. The design of KHIE is flexible in that, as criteria for determining meaningful use expands beyond stage 1, functionality will be added to support providers in achieving meaningful use.

KHIE is administered by the Division of Kentucky Electronic Health Information, which resides within the KY Office of Health Benefit & Information Exchange, within the Cabinet for Health & Family Services.

KHIE provides a baseline set of functions available across the state to support the exchange of electronic health information. Consumption of health information exchange services by one stakeholder does not reduce availability for others, and no healthcare stakeholder can be effectively excluded from appropriately using interoperable health information exchange services. The value of information increases with use, and the value of one set of information increases when linked with other information. Core components of KHIE include a master patient index, record-locator service, security, provider-user authentication, logging, audits and notifications. The focus of KHIE is on improving the health, quality, and safety of healthcare for Kentucky's residents and visitors through the provision of a statewide, interoperable health information exchange.

The KHIE staff will be available at any time to discuss or answer any questions about KHIE utilization at 502-564-7992.

Outreach Coordinators are based remotely in five regions across the state to facilitate provider participation in KHIE, as well as the Kentucky Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Contact details can be found on the KHIE website at www.khie.ky.gov.

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