Health IT Adoption and Meaningful Use

Regional Extension Center Meaningful Use Services

The Massachusetts Regional Extension Center (REC) provides consulting services for achieving Meaningful Use. The subsidized services are available to primary care providers in Massachusetts who become members of the REC program at the Massachusetts eHealth Institute (MeHI). This includes MDs, Nurse Practitioners (NP), and Medical Residents. The subsidy greatly reduces the financial burden of hiring EHR consultants. Current REC members who have not achieved Stage 1 Meaningful Use will benefit from the fund extension continuing through February 7, 2015. Openings to accept new REC members are available. Call MeHI at 617.371.3999 ext. 208. If you know of a care provider in need of assistance, please forward this email.

Massachusetts Health IT Adoption

The Commonwealth continues to be a leader in Health IT adoption and Meaningful Use attestation. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) Health IT dashboards, 68% of MA providers have achieved Meaningful Use. The Massachusetts breakdown can be found online with up-to-date statistics as of January 31, 2014. MeHI will continue to track and report on Health IT adoption and use statistics including connections to the health information exchange (HIE).

Learn more about Massachusetts-based EHR and HIE implementations and current projects by checking out Health IT success stories showcasing Hebrew Senior Life, Holyoke Medical Center, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, Lawrence General Hospital, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, South Cove Community Health Center, and others.

Connected Care
Heywood Hospital and Gardner Visiting Nurse Association Share Lab Results on the statewide HIE, the Mass HIway

Heywood Hospital and Gardner Visiting Nurse Association (GVNA) have developed a strong care delivery partnership. Their care coordination improved because the two organizations committed to sharing patient lab results electronically through the Massachusetts Health Information Highway (Mass HIway), the statewide health information exchange (HIE).

Gardner-based Heywood Hospital, a 107-year-old acute care facility, sent more than 650 referrals in 2012 to GVNA, a full-service home health agency, which travels to patients in 31 North Central Massachusetts communities. The sharing of patients' lab results is a key care coordination activity between the two organizations. Prior to the start of this initiative the sharing was done entirely on paper. The transfer of patient information via paper can be time-consuming and leads to redundancies in care, medical errors, and added costs.

A 2013 HIway Implementation Grant provided by the Massachusetts eHealth Institute (MeHI), presented Heywood and GVNA the support and assistance they needed to send lab results electronically. Read more

Massachusetts Home Health Providers Honored for Using Mass HIway to Boost "Cross Continuum Collaboration"

Six participants in the Massachusetts eHealth Institute at MassTech (MeHI’s) HIway Implementation Grant program have been chosen as award recipients by the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts (HCAM) for success in "Cross Continuum Collaboration". The six organizations were nominated for their ongoing use of innovative Health IT and the Mass HIway, the state’s health information exchange, to improve home healthcare across Massachusetts. The organizations were honored at HCAM's "Innovation Showcase and Star Awards" ceremony, on Tuesday, April 29th, at the the JFK Library in Boston. Read More

eHealth Innovation

Developing the Massachusetts eHealth Cluster

eHealth is a rapidly growing business sector founded on products and services that use information technologies to improve service delivery, efficiency and quality while managing costs in the delivery of healthcare and medical services.

The Massachusetts eHealth Cluster is the network of stakeholders - more than 200 companies, academic and research institutions, payers and providers, non-profit organizations, private investors, and policymakers - linked by a common geography, local talent and shared resources, and positioned to benefit by this dynamic and evolving healthcare economy in Massachusetts. These concentrations of interests and resources are driving tremendous opportunities for growth and expansion in eHealth over the next decade, and MeHI is working with stakeholders to explore and support collaboration opportunities for this emergent cluster. Stay tuned for more information on eHealth Cluster programs and activities.