HIE Roundtable Planning Committee

October 14th, 2021

Overview

The Health Information Exchange (HIE) Roundtable will convene HIE leaders from organizations nationally to deliberate on challenges and opportunities for advancing HIE through shared goals and policies. The virtual HIE Roundtable (Roundtable) is being planned in collaboration with Maryland's State-Designated HIE, the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), and the HIE Planning Committee (Committee). Confirmed HIE participants will take part in a timely and in-depth Roundtable policy discussion on January 31st, 2022, that will lead to national recommendations.

The following areas are for Committee discussion and represent a starting point to shape the Roundtable meeting agenda. Discussion items were informed by stakeholder interviews with about 35 HIE thought leaders from across the country and a thematic literature review.

Discussion Items – An Evolving List

1. State oversight of HIEs as health data utilities facilitates an integrated and consistent HIE governance approach.[1] The objective of supporting State oversight for HIE is to advance policy, governance, and stakeholder alignment.[2] Identifying and addressing gaps in HIE capabilities and available health data improves user experience and the value of HIE for consumers, caregivers, providers, payers, and public health agencies (or authorized users).[3]

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[1] ONC, Get the Facts about State Health Information Exchange Program. Available at: www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/page/2017-09/get-the-facts-about-state-hie-program-2.pdf.

[2] Healthcare Innovation, HIEs Seeing More Reasons for States to Treat Them as Utilities. Available at: www.hcinnovationgroup.com/interoperability-hie/infrastructure/article/21234799/hies-seeing-more-reasons-for-states-to-treat-them-as-utilities.

[3] HIMSS, HIEs Are Vital to Public Health, But Need Reshaping. Available at: www.himss.org/resources/hies-are-vital-public-health-need-reshaping.

2. State funding levers can help ensure that HIEs have access to resources to strengthen sustainability.[4] Through strategic partnerships, HIEs garner State-level support for expanding HIE use and interoperability amongst stakeholders.[5] Quasi-public HIE entities functioning as an element of a state budget are well-positioned to implement State-supported activities.[6]

3. Lessons learned from disease surveillance during the COVID-19 public health emergency point to an expanded role for HIEs in supporting public and population health.[7] Opportunities exist to improve health IT infrastructures by expanding interoperability for authorized users.[8]

4. Sharing health information is a tenet of patient-centered care and key to improving health care quality.[9, 10] HIEs enhance care coordination and care management by enabling data exchange and communication between authorized users.[11] Disseminating information and educating providers, consumers, and caregivers about the benefits of HIE encourages participation.[12, 13]

5. National networks such as the CommonWell Health Alliance work across state boundaries to provide more ubiquitous connections between providers and other HIE users.[14] Participation in an inter/intrastate HIE that shares network services enables policy alignment.[15]

[4] ONC, Health IT Dashboard, State Health IT Policy Levers Compendium Directory. Available at: www.dashboard.healthit.gov/datadashboard/state-health-it-policy-levers-compendium-directory.php.

[5] *Ibid*.

[6] Deloitte, Health Information Exchange (HIE) Business Models. Available at: www.providersedge.com/ehdocs/ehr_articles/health_info_exchange_business_models.pdf.

[7] Healthcare Innovation, The Promise and Possibility in Health Data During COVID and Beyond, February 2021. Available at: www.hcinnovationgroup.com/interoperability-hie/health-information-exchange-hie/article/21212004/the-promise-and-possibility-in-health-data-during-covid-and-beyond.

[8] See n. 4, *Supra*.

[9] See n. 4, *Supra*.

[10] HIMSS, Interoperability in Healthcare. Available at: www.himss.org/resources/interoperability-healthcare.

[11] AHIMA, Using Health Information Exchange to Support Community-based Innovations, 2018. Available at: perspectives.ahima.org/usinghie/.

[12] Health ML, Porter TH, Physician leadership and health information exchange: literature review, *BMJ Health Care Inform* (2019). Available at: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7062346/.

[13] AHIMA, Consumer Engagement Toolkit. Available at: bok.ahima.org/PdfView?oid=301404.

[14] CommonWell Health Alliance, CommonWell Evolves to Enable Payer Access to Nationwide Network. Available at: www.commonwellalliance.org/news-center/commonwell-news/commonwell-evolves-to-enable-payer-access-to-nationwide-network/.

[15] Healthcare Innovation, The Ever-Shifting Outlook for HIEs Shifts Once Again, May 2021. Available at: www.hcinnovationgroup.com/interoperability-hie/health-information-exchange-hie/article/21219488/the-evershifting-outlook-for-hies-shifts-once-again.

6. States with an All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) collect select private and government payer claims data to fill information gaps, generate information consumers can use, and increase transparency (goals).[16] Payer claims and HIE clinical information can advance APCD goals and inform development and evaluation of alternative payment models.[17] Policies that expand the role of HIEs in supporting APCDs with clinical information increase the value of APCDs and HIEs.[18]

7. Variations in privacy and security laws and policies among states and HIEs can hinder information sharing.[19] The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Privacy Rule and Security Rule, as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH), establish a baseline for privacy and security protections. In response to stakeholder demand, many states have adopted privacy and security laws that build on HIPAA.[20] HIE adoption of more robust privacy and security policies will lead to increased stakeholder engagement and trust in data sharing.[21]

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[16]The Commonwealth Fund, Profiles of State All-Payer Claims Databases, December 2020. Available at: www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/McCarthy_State_APCD_Profiles_Dec2020.pdf.

[17] Anthem Public Policy Institute, Achieving States' Goals for All-Payer Claims Databases, June 2018. Available at: www.antheminc.com/cs/groups/wellpoint/documents/wlp_assets/d19n/mzq1/~edisp/pw_g345393.pdf.

[18]*Ibid*.

[19] HealthIT.gov, Patient Consent for Electronic Health Information Exchange and Interoperability. Available at: www.healthit.gov/topic/interoperability/patient-consent-electronic-health-information-exchange-and-interoperability.

[20] ONC, Health IT Playbook, Privacy and Security. Available at: www.healthit.gov/playbook/privacy-and-security/.

[21] AHRQ, Health Information Exchange Policy Issues. Available at: www.digital.ahrq.gov/key-topics/health-information-exchange-policy-issues.