

Executive Summary

The recent enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and within it the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) has provided a timely opportunity for the State of Maine to expand and support the continued development of a comprehensive statewide strategy for a new health information technology (HIT) and health information exchange (HIE) infrastructure. Maine has made unprecedented investments in supporting the statewide advancement of HIT and HIE in order to improve the quality of health care delivery across the state while reining in unnecessary and duplicative costs. As a critical tool to support ongoing HIE efforts and to assure that HIE is leveraged to improve the health care delivery of all Maine people, this strategic and operational plan was developed in partnership with stakeholders across the entire Maine healthcare community. This plan describes:

- The advanced HIT and HIE efforts currently underway across the state;
- The mature HIE infrastructure currently in operation under the auspices of the private/public non-profit organization, HealthInfoNet;
- The goals and strategies for achieving statewide HIE; and,
- Detailed operational plan outlining the key aspects of advancing HIE operations statewide across five domains – Governance, Finance, Technical Architecture, Business and Operations, and Legal and Policy.

A critical foundation for the future of HIE in Maine must begin with a Vision. Maine's HIE vision is:

Preserving and improving the health of Maine people requires a transformed patient centered health system that uses highly secure, integrated electronic health information systems to advance access, safety, quality, and cost efficiency in the care of individual patients and populations.

Maine HIT and HIE Strategic Goals

To advance this vision, the Governors Office of Healthcare Policy and Finance (GOHPF) has convened a broad group of stakeholders –The HIT Steering Committee (HITSC) – to develop this strategic and operational plan. The HITSC agreed upon three high-level goals that will guide all statewide HIT and HIE related activities both to assure that federal requirements and needs are met to allow funding to flow, but also to meet the needs of Maine stakeholders and people.

GOAL 1: By 2015, all people in Maine will be cared for by healthcare providers who share electronic health and health related information securely within a connected healthcare system using standards-based technologies that promote high quality individual and population health.

GOAL 2: By 2015, all people in Maine will have access to a flexible comprehensive consumer centric life-long health record – “One Person One Record”

GOAL 3: Electronic healthcare information will be used by the State Coordinator for Health Information Technology to develop appropriate public and private policies throughout the healthcare system to promote evidenced based, clinically effective, and efficient care for all people.

Maine HIT Strategic Objectives

1. ***Enable the transformation:*** In adherence to federal guidelines for meaningful use of HIT, by 2015, all providers in Maine will have an EHR pursuant to National Standards and will be sharing clinical and administrative information through HealthInfoNet, the statewide health information exchange organization, to promote high quality and cost effective healthcare.
2. ***Security and Privacy:*** All healthcare information shared and stored electronically will adhere to strict privacy, security, and confidentiality requirements as defined by the collaborative work of HIN, the State Government (including the Attorney General) and where possible the guidelines provided through the Office of the National Coordinator for HIT (ONC) and federally supported projects such as the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative (HISPC).
3. ***Patient focused health:*** By 2015 all people of Maine will have secure electronic access to comprehensive healthcare information and will be assured that if they consent to participate in HIE, their providers will also have comprehensive access to their clinical information to guarantee the most informed decision making at the point of care.
4. ***Improve the quality of care:*** By 2015, all providers serving individuals and populations in Maine will achieve federal meaningful use guidelines, improve performance, and support care processes on key health system outcomes measures.
5. ***Coordination of care:*** Beginning in 2010 and phased in through 2015, the statewide health information organization, HealthInfoNet, will deploy statewide health information exchange services, connecting all providers, payers, laboratories, imaging centers, pharmacies, public agencies and other relevant stakeholders. These services will allow for the appropriate, secure, and private exchange of relevant personal health information to the point of care for all Maine people consenting to participate, assuring that their healthcare is coordinated among all primary care and specialty providers.
6. ***Benefit public and population health:*** HIE activities in Maine will be aligned at every level possible through the Office of the State Coordinator for HIT (OSC) to assure that the data collected, is used to improve population health. Statewide HIE services are critical for required disease reporting, biosurveillance, public health tracking (immunization etc.), as well as population support functions of the Maine Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

7. ***Promote public private cooperation and collaboration:*** All health information technology and exchange activities will be developed and overseen through structures that promote cooperation and collaboration among all public and private stakeholders, building upon existing partnerships developed throughout the history of HIE in Maine and in recognition of the specific public sector regulatory, accountability and fiscal functions.
8. ***Promote efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery:*** Recognizing that HIT and HIE are tools, evaluation metrics will be iteratively developed and promulgated across the healthcare system of Maine to assure that HIT tools are used appropriately to the benefit the people of Maine.

The State of Maine recognizes the need for alignment with other States and the Federal Government. To assure that these activities are coordinated, the State has formed an Office of the State Coordinator for HIT (OSC) that is working in close partnership with the State's designated statewide Health Information Organization – HealthInfoNet - to collaborate with all state and national stakeholders to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in this plan. Moreover, due to the critical intersection between HIT and HIE and broader healthcare system improvement efforts, these strategic and operational plans, upon finalization and including feedback from the public, will be incorporated in the biannual State Health Plan currently under public review.