eHealth Exchange™ — Overview

In 2012, the eHealth Exchange transitioned from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT to a private sector initiative, supported by The Sequoia Project. In just three years, the eHealth Exchange network has evolved and grown to connect roughly one third of hospitals in the country and over 100 million patients.

Today, the eHealth Exchange is the largest health information exchange network in the country.

What is the eHealth Exchange?

The eHealth Exchange is a rapidly growing network of exchange partners that securely share clinical information over the Internet across the U.S., using a standardized approach. By leveraging common standards, legal agreements and governance, our participants share health information with each other without additional customization and one-off legal agreements.

Participating organizations mutually agree to support a common set of standards and specifications that enable the establishment of a secure, trusted and interoperable connection among all participating organizations for the standardized flow of information, by:

- Sending health information to other participating organizations
- Finding and requesting copies of healthcare information from other participating organizations – where permitted by law and policy
- Matching patients to their data without a national patient identifier
- Subscribing to receive updates to health information

Who is Connected?

eHealth Exchange connectivity spans all 50 states, representing:

- 4 federal agencies
- 30% of U.S. hospitals,
  40% expected by year-end 2015
- 13,000 medical groups
- 3,400 dialysis centers
- 8,300 pharmacies
- 100 million patients

We expect this connectivity to grow considerably over the course of this year, connecting smaller physician groups, post-acute and other care settings.

Learn more at: ehealthexchange.com

eHealth Exchange Components

Legal/Trust Framework: We provide standard legal agreements, including a Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement (DURSA), that allow participants to agree to one set of legal/trust documents in order to be able to exchange data with all other participants.

Governance: We support a mature governance model, wherein participants actively govern the network and collectively make decisions about new policies and technical direction. Governance incorporates a broad spectrum of perspectives by involving a representative set of participants from industry and government.

Operating Policies and Procedures: We have clearly defined policies and procedures, so all participants know what is expected of them and their end users, and in turn, they know what they can expect from other participants.

Technical Services: We provide participants with a variety of technical services, including: a service registry directory of the other Exchange participants; a security layer based upon a public key infrastructure, including x.509 managed digital certificates; and testing to ensure fully-compliant interoperability and conformance with other participants in the eHealth Exchange.

Operational Support (via The Sequoia Project): As a The Sequoia Project initiative, we benefit from The Sequoia Project's technical and administrative support that includes: interoperability subject matter expertise; convening capabilities and meeting support; governance expertise; technical expertise and services; and outreach.

Benefits to Participants

Benefit	How eHealth Exchange Achieves Benefit
Reducing Costs	Using common standards, legal agreements and governance enables participants to reduce legal fees and avoid building custom interfaces with trading partners.
Improving Clinical and Business Decisions	Access to a nationwide data sharing network provides secure access to the comprehensive health data that healthcare providers, pharmacies and payers require to improve clinical decision making, patient safety, process improvement and fair payment.
Exchanging Data with Government Agencies	Federal participation in the eHealth Exchange supports data sharing among all participants and with agencies such as Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Department of Defense, the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs.
Planning for the Future	Because the eHealth Exchange is governed by a representative set of participants, its multi-purpose interoperability platform has the ability to evolve and incorporate new use cases, standards, etc.

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