



HEALTH INFORMATION SECURITY & PRIVACY **TOOLKIT**

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States launch virtual toolkit for physicians, encourage health information exchange

Florida is among 8 states selected for federal pilot project

Tallahassee, Florida – The Agency for Health Care Administration is launching an initiative to provide physicians with the information they need to participate in electronic health information exchange. The Institute is working with organizations in seven other states under a grant from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT.

The Health Information Security and Privacy Toolkit, launched on Jan. 15 in eight pilot states, focuses on safe, private and secure health information exchange for providers. The Agency for Health Care Administration joins organizations in Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Wyoming in the effort.

The Web-based toolkit, found at www.Secure4Health.org, provides information on electronic health information exchange and offers tools and resources to help physicians get connected electronically. Physicians can also earn continuing medical education credits while learning more about electronic health information exchange and electronic health record systems.

The goals of the Health Information Security & Privacy Toolkit include:

- Introducing physicians to the benefits of electronic health information exchange;
- Motivating providers to learn more about the advantages of electronic health information exchange for their patients and practices;
- Encouraging the adoption of electronic health record software so that the physician can connect to a local regional health information organization.

Dr. David C. Kibbe, MD, is one of two national physician champions for the initiative. He serves as senior advisor for the American Academy of Family Physicians' Center for Health Information Technology. "As a long-time advocate, I know health information technology has the potential to offer real-time information at the point of care and greater privacy and security protections," said Dr. Kibbe.

Kentucky Lt. Governor Daniel Mongiardo is a practicing surgeon and a strong proponent of secure health information exchange and electronic health record systems. He also serves as a physician champion for the project. He joins Dr. Kibbe in encouraging physicians, especially those in rural areas, to engage in health information exchange.

"Not only is the information private and secure, but it will also help improve the delivery of healthcare services," said Dr. Mongiardo. "By making health information available to doctors electronically, anywhere, medical errors and costs can be reduced. It is one way to help improve the U.S. healthcare system."

The initiative consists of a pilot project that will run from January to March 2009. Traffic on the website and the use of CME credits will be used to evaluate the project's impact on physicians and the medical community. The goal of the initiative is to create an education and outreach toolkit for providers nationwide.

The Health Information Security & Privacy Toolkit is the result of work completed by the Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration (HISPC), a multi-year project launched in 2006 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The collaboration is composed of 42 states and territories and addresses issues pertinent to electronic health information exchanges through multi-state collaboration.

For more information, visit www.Secure4Health.org or <http://www.fhin.net/PSresourceCtr/PEToolkit.shtml>.

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