



HEALTH INFORMATION SECURITY & PRIVACY TOOLKIT

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States launch virtual toolkit for health care providers, encourage electronic health information exchange *Wyoming among 8 states selected for federal pilot project*

LARAMIE, WY – A federal initiative aims to encourage participation in electronic health information exchange technology by providing health care providers with the tools they need to get connected.

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

The Web-based toolkit, found at www.Secure4Health.org, provides physician-to-physician advice, resource links, and answers to frequently asked questions from national health care subject-matter experts. Information is focused on electronic health information exchange and related privacy and security implications as well as the tools and resources to help physicians

get connected electronically. Physicians also can earn free continuing medical education credits while learning more about electronic health information exchange and electronic health record systems.

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 health care providers, especially those in rural areas, to engage in electronic 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 Provider Education Toolkit will:

- Introduce health care providers to the benefits of electronic health information exchange;
- Increase provider awareness of the privacy and security benefits and challenges of health information exchange;

- Motivate providers to understand the advantages of electronic health information exchange;
- Identify the steps to HIE implementation; and
- Encourage participation in electronic health information exchange.

The pilot runs from January to March 2009. To evaluate its impact on health care providers and the medical community, the Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration will analyze Web site traffic and the number of health care providers taking advantage of free continuing education credits. A goal is to create an education and outreach toolkit for providers nationwide.

The Provider Education Toolkit is the result of work completed by the Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration, a multi-year project launched in 2006 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The collaboration comprises 42 states and territories and addresses the privacy and security challenges presented by electronic health information exchange through multi-state collaboration.

For more information, visit www.Secure4Health.org.

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