



HEALTH INFORMATION SECURITY & PRIVACY TOOLKIT

States launch virtual toolkit for providers, encourage electronic health information exchange

A federal initiative aims to encourage participation in electronic health information exchange by providing information about privacy and security to health care providers.

The Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration Provider Education Toolkit, launched Jan. 15 in eight pilot states, provides educational resources for health care providers interested in understanding electronic health information exchange and security and privacy best practices. Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Wyoming are participating in the effort to raise awareness in the state's health care community.

The Web-based toolkit, found at www.Secure4Health.org, offers physician-to-physician advice, resource links, and answers to frequently asked questions from national health care subject-matter experts. Health care providers can also earn free continuing medical education credits while learning more about electronic health information exchange, electronic health record systems, and related privacy and security benefits and challenges.

The initiative consists of a pilot project that runs from January to March 2009. To evaluate its impact on physicians and the health care community, the Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration will analyze Web site traffic, the number of health care

providers taking advantage of free continuing medical education credits, and other assessment metrics. The goal is to gather feedback from this pilot phase to develop further an education and outreach toolkit for health care 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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