



HEALTH INFORMATION SECURITY & PRIVACY TOOLKIT

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

A federal initiative aims to encourage participation in electronic health information exchange technology 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, 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 providers get connected electronically. Physicians can also 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 physicians to the benefits of electronic health information exchange;
- Increase provider's awareness of the privacy and security benefits and challenges of health information exchange;

- Motivate providers to learn more about the advantages of participating in electronic health information exchange
- Encourage the adoption of electronic health record technology so that the providers can connect to a regional 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, the number of health care providers taking advantage of free continuing education credits and other evaluation metrics. The goal is to use this feedback to design 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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