



Texas Health Information Service Provider (HISP) Census Request for Information

October 12, 2011

PURPOSE

We are collecting a list of health information service providers (HISPs) offering or intending to offer Direct-compliant connectivity. We will be making this list available to hospitals and health care practitioners throughout the state.

SUMMARY

The Texas Health Services Authority (THSA), under contract with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), is responsible for the implementation of certain components of the state's Strategic and Operational Plan for statewide health information exchange as approved by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) in November 2010. Earlier in 2010, the state conducted an Environmental Scan to assess readiness for health information exchange (HIE) implementation, including a survey of local HIE initiatives in the state, and issued a Request for Information (RFI) to identify HIE network services available in the State of Texas that offer providers specific HIE functions.

Pursuant to the state's approved Strategic and Operation Plan, HHSC and THSA created a Local HIE Grant program to provide partial funding for the planning, implementation and operation of local HIE initiatives and networks. In December 2010, the HHSC issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for funding under the Grant Program; it received 17 grant applications and awarded planning funds to each applicant. In May 2011, the THSA issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) as part of its "White Space" initiative to identify organizations with the qualifications and experience necessary to provide electronic capabilities for the transmission of all clinical transactions necessary to enable health care providers and hospitals to achieve "meaningful use" of electronic health records (EHRs) in accordance with state and federal standards in regions of the state (known collectively as Texas "white space") lacking a local health information organization (HIO) or regional health information organization (RHIO). In August 2011, the THSA approved the preliminary initial selection of six organizations, to be called health information service providers (HISPs), pursuant to the requirements of the RFQ.

The THSA now seeks to augment these previous initiatives by identifying organizations that offer, intend to offer, or are contemplating offering Nationwide Health Information Network (NW-HIN) Direct protocol HIE connectivity services to providers in the State of Texas.

HOW TO USE TO THIS DOCUMENT

What is The Goal of this Document?

The THSA is issuing this RFI in order to identify additional organizations that currently, intend to, or are contemplating an intent to offer the use of NW-HIN Direct messaging protocol HIE network services in the State of Texas to enable physicians, multi-physician health care practices, or hospitals to conduct the following electronic health information exchange transactions:

- Clinical summary exchange for care coordination and patient engagement; and
- Electronic clinical laboratory results delivery.

Terminology

“HIE network services” mean health information exchange services that are available through the internet, to which a provider could subscribe and that a provider could begin to use immediately, either directly through a web portal or through an electronic health record or stand-alone software tool.

The “Nationwide Health Information Network” (NW-HIN) is the set of nationally recognized standards, services and policies that enable the secure exchange of health information over the Internet.

“Direct protocols” are the standards, policies and services adopted by the NWHIN (under the auspices of the “Direct Project”) that enable simple, secure transport of health information between authorized care providers. The Direct Project protocols enable standards-based health information exchange in support of core Stage 1 Meaningful Use measures, including communication of summary care records, referrals, discharge summaries and other clinical documents in support of continuity of care and medication reconciliation, and communication of laboratory results to providers.

What Goals are NOT intended for this Document?

It is not our intention to make this RFI a "pre-proposal." The purpose is to augment our existing environmental scan, which is intended to be a comprehensive representation of health information exchange activity and health information technology utilization in the state. It is not intended to endorse a particular solution, method, or product. It is also not our intent to make specific product information available through the environmental scan.

Who Should Respond?

Except as noted below, the intended audience for this RFI includes providers of health information technology who offer, intend to offer, or are contemplating offering NW-HIN Direct protocol HIE network services in the state of Texas.

How Will My Organization Benefit By Participating?

Participation will ensure that your organization is part of the statewide health information exchange planning process. Organizations that respond to this RFI will be added to the THSA's contacts and may receive additional updates on Texas' HIE planning and development.

RESPONSE FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS

Please limit responses to the information requested in this RFI. Responses should be sent by 5pm, Friday, October 28, 2011 by email in the format requested. Please send responses to steve.rodny@THSA.org. THSA staff will confirm receipt within 5 business days of submission. If you do not receive a confirmation in that time, please call Steve Roddy at (512) 814-0321.

Responses should include a cover letter regarding the following discussion sections:

- Responding organization (including contact information)
- Direct services status: Does your organization currently offer, intend to offer, or contemplate offering Direct services? If you do not currently offer Direct services but plan to do so, when?
- If Direct services are currently or will be offered, description of the Direct HIE network services available through the organization, including:
 - Name of the product;
 - Product status (is it currently offered in Texas? If so, where? If not, when and where do you project that it will be offered?)
 - Summary of the product's capabilities;
 - Pricing; and
 - Description of the current or projected market for the product.

The remainder of the response should be submitted using the Direct Services Questionnaire located at the end of this document.

The responses to the RFI will be aggregated across the state to indicate the availability of Direct HIE network services. Since all responses to the RFI will be combined, it is important that responses closely follow the format and instructions provided within the questionnaire template.

TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT

Responses may be subject to the Texas Public Information Act, Tex. Government Code, Chapter 552, and may be disclosed to the public upon request. Subject to the Act, Respondents may protect trade and confidential information from public release. Trade secrets or other confidential information, submitted as part of a Proposal, shall be clearly marked at each page it appears. Such marking shall be in boldface type at least 14 point font.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like any additional information about this RFI, please contact Steve Roddy at steve.rodny@thsa.org or at (512) 814-0321.

Direct Services Questionnaire*	
Query	Response
Organization Name	
Organization Contact	
Does your organization currently offer Direct services in the state of Texas? <i>(Y or N)</i>	
Does your organization plan to offer secure messaging services that conform with the security protocols set forth by the Office of the National Coordinator's (ONC's) Direct Project in the state of Texas? (If so, when?) <i>(Y or N, target date)</i>	
In what regions or areas of the state is your Direct product offered (if Product is not yet available, projected regions/areas)? <i>(Brief description)</i>	
What is the name of your organization's Direct Product? <i>(The name of a specific Direct software or service, or, in cases where your organization has been asked to create a custom product for a client, use or create a unique identifier)</i>	
Does the Direct Product enable clinical summary exchange for care coordination and patient engagement? * <i>(Y or N)</i>	
Does the Direct Product enable electronic clinical laboratory results delivery? ** <i>(Y or N)</i>	
Does the Direct Product enable exchange	

Direct Services Questionnaire*	
Query	Response
or delivery of other services? ** <i>(Y or N; if Y, briefly list)</i>	
What is the number of physicians currently (or projected) using this Product in the state of Texas?	
What is the number of hospitals currently (or projected) using this Product in the state of Texas?	
What is your Direct Product's price per physician? (Alternatively: Please provide a description of pricing structure or strategy, or a link to pricing information on your organization's website)	
What is your Direct Product's price per hospital? (Alternatively: Please provide a description of pricing structure or strategy, or a link to pricing information on your organization's website)	
Does the Product interface with EHRs? <i>(Y or N)</i>	
Is an EHR necessary to connect? <i>(Y or N)</i>	
Does your Product use a Web portal, email client, or both secure messaging?	

Direct Services Questionnaire*	
Query	Response
If email, is the client proprietary? <i>(Y or N)</i>	
Does the Product enable exchange with non-Direct HIEs? <i>(Y or N)</i>	
Does the organization provide (or anticipate providing) corresponding certificate authority services? <i>(Y or N)</i>	
If so, has such certificate authority service been cross certified by the federal bridge? <i>(Y or N)</i>	
Additional HIE Services? <i>(Y or N; brief description)</i>	
Additional Notes ***	

*** TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT NOTICE:** RESPONSES MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT, TEX. GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 552, AND MAY BE DISCLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST. SUBJECT TO THE ACT, RESPONDENTS MAY PROTECT TRADE AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC RELEASE. TRADE SECRETS OR OTHER CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, SUBMITTED AS PART OF A PROPOSAL, SHALL BE CLEARLY MARKED AT EACH PAGE IT APPEARS. SUCH MARKING SHALL BE IN BOLDFACE TYPE AT LEAST 14 POINT FONT.

****Note:** This question is about the capabilities of the software or technology solution in place and not how the provider may be using it. For example, if the product is capable of clinical laboratory results delivery but the feature is not activated for a specific provider, we would still consider that provider capable of exchange using that product.

******* If you believe that additional explanation not related to the above fields is merited regarding the Direct Product offered by your organization, please use this open notes field to add that information.