



# **Health Information Technology in Texas**

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- Health information technology background
  - Health information technology sections of HB1218
    - Medicaid Health Information Exchange Advisory Committee
    - Medicaid Health Information Exchange System
    - Local/regional health information exchange pilot
  - Related health information technology activities
    - Office of e-Health Coordination
    - Statewide health information exchange
    - Medicaid electronic health record incentive program
    - Regional extension centers

# Health Information Technology Background

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- Health Information Technology is the use of information and communication technology in health care. Health Information Technology can include:
  - electronic health records
  - personal health records
  - e-mail communication
  - clinical alerts and reminders
  - computerized decision support systems
  - hand-held devices
  - other technologies that store, protect, retrieve and transfer clinical, administrative, and financial information electronically within health care settings.

# Health Information Technology Background

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- ***Electronic Health Record (EHR)*** – An electronic record of health-related information on an individual that can be created, gathered, managed, and consulted by authorized clinicians and staff.
- ***Health Information Exchange (HIE)*** – The electronic movement of health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.
- ***Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO)*** – A health information organization that brings together health care stakeholders within a defined geographic area and governs health information exchange among them for the purpose of improving health and care in that community.

# Health Information Technology Legislative Initiatives

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- Medicaid HIE Advisory Committee
  - Advisory committee members represent a broad range of health care stakeholders.
  - Meetings held February 1, 2010 and April 2, 2010.
  - Committee has provided input on the Medicaid HIE System, the Medicaid EHR incentive program, and Medicaid medical privacy and security policies.

# Health Information Technology Legislative Initiatives

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- Medicaid HIE System – Stage 1
  - Claims-based electronic health record – the Medicaid Eligibility and Health Information Services (MEHIS) will serve as the platform for the claims-based EHR, scheduled to go-live in 2011.
  - Electronic prescribing – Web-based eRx tool to be implemented through MEHIS.
  - Managed Care Organization (MCO) encounter data – Reporting requirement included in Sept 2009 MCO contract amendment.
  - Standards – HHSC will follow HIT standards developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- Medicaid HIE System – Stages 2 and 3
  - Based on the recommendations from the advisory committee and feedback from interested parties, HHSC may expand the HIE system in stages two and three.

# Health Information Technology Legislative Initiatives

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- Local/regional HIE pilot HHSC will establish a pilot project to determine the feasibility, costs, and benefits of exchanging secure electronic health information between the commission and local or regional HIE initiatives.
  - Initially, the pilot will be limited to the exchange of medication history information.
  - HHSC has identified 8 local HIE organizations for potential participation.
  - Report due to the legislature on the pilot and the Medicaid HIE System by January 1, 2011.

# Related Health Information Technology Activities

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- Statewide Health Information Exchange
  - Funding authority from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for planning and implementation grants to states or qualified state-designated entities to facilitate and expand HIE.
  - In March 2010, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology awarded the Health and Human Services Commission \$28.8 million over four years for the Texas Statewide HIE Cooperative Agreement Program.
  - Implementation will be a coordinated effort between HHSC and Texas Health Services Authority.

# Related Health Information Technology Activities

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- Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) incentive program
  - Incentives for eligible providers and hospitals to encourage the adoption and use of EHRs.
  - Providers must make ‘meaningful use’ of the EHRs to qualify for the incentives.
  - Authorizes a 100% federal match for incentive payments to providers.
  - Authorizes a 90% federal match for state’s administrative costs to establish process for incentive payments.
  - Will be included in the State Medicaid HIT Plan.

# Related Health Information Technology Activities

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- HIT Regional Extension Centers (RECs)
  - Federally-funded organizations structured to help primary care physicians select, adopt, and make ‘meaningful use’ of EHRs.
  - Four Texas consortia were selected to be RECs.
  - Coordination among RECs, state HIE planning process, and Medicaid HIT planning process.
  - Coordinated applications covering the state.
  - No explicit role for the state in selecting or operating RECs.

# Related Health Information Technology Activities

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- The new Office of e-Health Coordination is a function of the Office of Health Services, specifically to:
  - Coordinate health information policy and information for the HHS Enterprise.
  - Ensure a coordinated approach to maximize funding opportunities and leverage resources across the HHS enterprise.
  - Focus on big picture functions such as ARRA planning.