



PHIX

**Pennsylvania Health Information
Exchange**

November 2009

Contents

- Overview and Background Information
- Introducing PHIX Vision and Strategic Goals
- Key areas for comment
- Strategic plan availability and next steps

Prescription for Pennsylvania

- Prescription for Pennsylvania (Rx for PA), Governor Rendell's Health Care Reform Plan, is a comprehensive roadmap to contain costs while improving affordability, access and quality of health care in PA.
- Rx for PA identified exchanging health information as critical for improving health care quality and efficiency, and established goals for promoting the adoption of Electronic Medical Records or Electronic Health Records (EMR/EHR) and e-prescribing.

Federal Government

- In Feb. 2009, President Obama signed the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (the HITECH Act).
- \$48 billion is available in grants, loans and incentives to encourage “meaningful use” of health IT for health care providers.
- State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program with Office of National Coordinator

HIE Cooperative Agreement Framework

- **Governance:** What is the structure of the State's governance entity responsible for developing and maintaining a multi-stakeholder process to ensure the exchange of information through the HIE is in compliance with applicable policies and laws?
- **Finance:** What are the pricing strategies, public and private financing strategies, financial reporting, business planning, audits, and controls for the HIE?
- **Technical Infrastructure:** What are the technological aspects that will physically enable the technical services for the HIE in a secure and appropriate manner, including architecture, hardware, software, applications, network configurations?
- **Business and Technical:** What are the business and technical activities, including procurement, identifying requirements, process design, functionality development, project management, help desk, systems maintenance, change control, program evaluation, and reporting?
- **Legal and Policy:** What are the State's legal/policy activities associated with creating a common set of rules to enable health information exchange while protecting consumer interests?

Vision for Pennsylvania HIE

The vision for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Health Information Exchange (PHIX) is to strengthen Pennsylvania's health care system through timely, secure and authorized exchange of patient health information among health care providers. Health information exchange through PHIX will support patient-centered health care and continuous improvements in access, quality, outcomes and efficiency of care.

Strategic Plan Development

- GOHCR convened a PHIX Core Group to provide guidance in the development of the PHIX Strategic Plan in alignment with ONC's HIE Cooperative Agreement Program
 - GOHCR brought forth data, input and strategies gathered since 2008 through various forums, PAeHI and the PHIX Advisory Council
 - Representatives from the providers, academic programs, regional health information organizations, patient advocacy, and payer groups participated in strategic planning workshops

Strategic Goals for PHIX




- Help transform health care delivery to a quality patient-centered model.
- Protect personal health information through privacy policies and security best practices.
- Improve clinical outcomes and patient safety.
- Minimize duplication of testing and services and strengthen continuity and coordination of care.
- Align the state plans with the Medicaid State HIT Plan.
- Ensure guidance of PHIX by a governance structure of key community stakeholders with statewide collaborative capabilities.
- Develop an approach for Pennsylvania that uses the federally-recognized standards.
- Enable meaningful use of EHRs by providers across PA.

Key Areas for Comments

There are 3 key areas for public input:

- Governance
- Funding
- Privacy

How will PHIX be operated? (Governance)

Alternatives	Pros and Cons
<p> Existing State Agency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (+) Legislation NOT required (-) Unclear as to appropriate agency home (-) Challenge to establish broad based stakeholder support (-) Perception of state intrusion into personal health information.
<p> Create non-governmental non-profit organization (501(c)(3))</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (?) Legislation required (+) Would include primary stakeholders within organization (-) Accountability to Commonwealth and Public
<p> Create Public Authority (e.g. PA Patient Safety Authority)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (+) Based on existing successful model (+) Includes accountability mechanisms within legislation (-) Legislation required (-) Challenge to reach agreement with stakeholders on Authority members

How will PHIX be operated? (Governance)

- The recommendation for PHIX governance is to create a public authority
 - ❑ Public/Private Board of Directors
 - ❑ Focus on high-level strategic plans and decisions
 - ❑ Oversee committees or workgroups that will provide specialized advice and recommendations across all governance functions such as financing, legal requirements, policy compliance, technical infrastructure and operations

How will PHIX be funded? (Financing)

Alternatives	Pros and Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assessment fees on medical claims paid by insurers. In addition, there will need to be some funding to cover participation of Medicaid, Department of Health and other state-funded programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (+) Long Term Sustainability (+) Fairness of the Funding Model (+) Assessments are a demonstrated approach based on VT experience (-) Budgetary and political challenges (-) Legislation needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Transaction fees or subscriptions, based on use or entity size. ■ Value-added services ■ Gain-sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (+) Long term sustainability (+) Legislation unnecessary (-) Challenge for initial HIE adoption across providers (-) May limit HIE utilization by providers (-) Administrative complexity (-) Burden challenge to stakeholders

How will PHIX be Funded? (Finance)

- Recommendation is an assessment on all medical claims paid by insurers that will be dedicated to PHIX implementation and ongoing operations.
 - Equitable revenue source that provides adequate funding to the PHIX governing body to implement all HIE activities throughout Pennsylvania
 - Will not require payments by hospitals, physicians, patients and other authorized users of PHIX which will aid adoption

How will health information be protected? (Legal / Privacy)

Potential Actions	Pros and Cons
<p>Opt-Out</p> <p>Except for super-protected information (HIV/AIDS status, mental health and substance abuse, etc.), consent is implied for access to electronic health information for all authorized providers. There must be affirmative action to refuse to participate in HIE.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (+) The way things are today (+) Maximum participation in HIE (+) More improvement in quality of care (+) More efficiency in care
<p>Opt-In</p> <p>Health information is not shared unless explicit authorization is provided. Presumption is that information is not shared.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (+) Provides basis for patient authorization on a participant level (-) Fewer participants in HIE (-) Less improvement in quality and efficiency (-) Would require significant public awareness and uptake campaign to increase participation

PHIX Technical Infrastructure

- PHIX is envisioned as the connecting network for health information exchange across Pennsylvania, for connectivity with other states and the NHIN platform.
- PHIX will be built on a secure, internet-based architecture that enables health care data transfer using recognized federal and state health information technology standards.
- The technical design will permit connection to regional HIEs, integrated health systems and individual hospitals to leverage existing investments in their HIE efforts.

PHIX Technical Infrastructure

- Recommendation is that Pennsylvania enters into an interstate agreement with Delaware to piggyback on DHIN's existing, proven technical platform
 - ❑ Supports ONC desire for multi-state collaboration
 - ❑ Implementation time can be reduced significantly
 - ❑ There are expected cost efficiencies by leveraging established DHIN policies, procedures, and existing relationships with vendors

Next steps

- As of November 20, 2009, a draft Strategic Plan and Executive Summary will be accessible on the GOHCR website:
www.gohcr.state.pa.us
- Please provide GOHCR with your comments via email by December 21, 2009:
ra-PHIXStrategicPlan@state.pa.us

Next steps

- Final version of the Strategic Plan will be developed based on comments received and will be posted on the GOHCR website - www.gohcr.state.pa.us
- The Operational Plan will be developed and submitted to ONC for approval in early 2010

Contact Information

Phil Magistro

Deputy Director, Program Implementation

State Government HIT Coordinator

Governor's Office of Health Care Reform

pmagistro@state.pa.us

717-214-8174