

For Immediate Release**Media Contact:** Mark Stevens

February 22, 2008

(484) 653-8571

**Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative Presents Recommendations to
Governor Rendell on Health Information Exchange, Electronic Health Record Adoption**
Health Information Sharing and Technology Seen as Key to Better Care at Lower Cost, Fewer Medical Errors

HARRISBURG – The Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative (PAeHI) today presented two white papers to the Governor’s Office of Health Care Reform that provide a framework for the adoption of health information exchange, electronic health records, and electronic prescribing in Pennsylvania. “**Building a Sustainable Model for Health Information Exchange in Pennsylvania**” and “**Establishing Widespread Adoption of Electronic Health Records and Electronic Prescribing in Pennsylvania**” were prepared at the request of the Governor’s Office.

“These comprehensive white papers represent the collective efforts and expertise of dozens of healthcare information technology leaders from across the state,” said Martin Ciccocioppo, PAeHI Board Chair and Vice President for Research with The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania. “We are grateful for Governor Rendell’s interest in actively promoting and participating in statewide health information exchange and facilitating broader adoption of EHR and e-prescribing, and we are pleased to work collaboratively with the Governor’s Office to connect Pennsylvanians for better health by leveraging health information technology to increase the quality of - and access to - healthcare while lowering its cost.”

“The information, direction and recommendations these important papers provide will help us achieve these goals, and complement the on-going efforts and initiatives of the Governor and the General Assembly.” Recommendations to the Governor include: 1) **Patients come first.** 2) **Consumer Privacy, security and confidentiality are paramount;** 3) **Multi-stakeholder collaboration is needed to implement achievable and measurable results and provide value;** 4) **Both the State and Payors should provide leadership and financial support, including incentives, to foster broader adoption;** and 5) **Uniform standards must be established regarding electronic health records and health information exchange.**

For more information regarding the white papers and the work of the PA eHealth Initiative, please visit www.paehi.org or e-mail PAeHI Executive Director, Mark Stevens, at markwstevens@verizon.net.

*The **Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative (PAeHI)** was created in 2005 to encourage the development and use of electronic medical records (EMR) in Pennsylvania along with health information exchanges (HIE), which will ultimately tie into a nationwide system allowing patients and healthcare providers to securely access medical records regionally and throughout the country. The initiative is working with providers, health insurers, businesses, and government to inform health care stakeholders and all Pennsylvanians of the benefits of utilizing electronic health records; interconnect all health care stakeholders to make health information available; address legal and policy issues which could impede the development of HIEs; enable secure, confidential access to health information; and enable patient access and control of their health information. PAeHI background and membership information, including its strategic plan, “**Connecting Pennsylvanians for Better Health**,” is available at www.paehi.org.*

###