



Special
Points of
Interest:

- 18 New Participants have joined the RHIO
- July 3rd is an Important EHR Deadline for Medicare Eligible Hospitals and CAHs
- HealthConnections offers employment opportunities

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HeC Successfully Launches New HIE System

On Wednesday, May 22, HealthConnections successfully launched a new HIE system for all users. The system upgrade, which was completed in six months, is the result of collaboration with Mirth Corporation.

With this migration, HealthConnections, operating one of the nation's fastest-growing health information exchanges, increases capabilities and services that will deliver consolidated patient health information for improved patient care.

HealthConnections Secure Messaging: Beyond the Fax Machine

Secure Messaging is the latest health information functionality being made available to healthcare professionals. Also known as 'Direct', secure messaging is a way of communicating protected health information between healthcare providers through a secure means, beyond the fax machine.

The Direct Project was launched

New and updated features include:

- **Enhanced Patient Lookup screens** - access to medications, allergies,

problem lists, and other patient information

- **Secure Messaging** (Direct Mail)
- **Results Delivery**
- **Consent Management**

[Read more...](#)

Have you logged on to HealthConnections today?

Explore the new Patient Lookup and let us know what you think! Send your comments to support@healthconnections.org

Not a HealthConnections participant? Contact one of our knowledgeable Provider Engagement Specialists at **315-671-2241** today.

by the federal government to define a protocol--a set of standards, policies, and services--to enable secure transport of health information between authorized care providers. This protocol allows healthcare professionals to communicate with each other more interactively than the fax machine and more securely than existing email and chat session capabilities. The

ability to use secure messaging to exchange information is managed through a HISP, a health information service provider. HISPs are like post offices--receiving and delivering information to connected parties. However, HISPs need to be connected to each other for all of this to work. ♦

[Read more...](#)

Contact HealthConnections for more information

Welcome New April & May Participants

McGraw Medical

Insight House

Family Health Network of
CNY (Cortland)

Family Practice of Cortland

Upstate NY Transplant/
CNY Eye & Tissue

Syracuse Gastroenterological
Association

Family Counseling Service of
Cortland

The Neighborhood Center
Utica

The Children's Home
of Jefferson County

Center for Family Life &
Recovery

Cortland Internists Associates

Michaud Residential Health
Services

St. Luke Residential
HealthCare Facility

North Country Transitional
Living Services, Inc.

Tompkins County MHS

Human Technologies
Corporation

Confidential Help for
Drug & Alcohol

Auburn Nursing Home

Current Stats: Organizations Connected

Organizations Connected

Hospitals: 17

Practices: 145

Labs/Radiology Centers: 6

Patients with Positive Consent:

637,972 unique

Patients with RHIO Records: 1,300,467

Patient Lookup

Users: 395

Logins: 4,183

Results Delivery

Providers: 351

Documents: 26,766

Incentive Programs: What You Need to Know

July 3rd is an Important EHR Deadline for Medicare Eligible Hospitals and CAHs

July 3, 2013 is last day that eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) in their first year of participation of the Medicare EHR Incentive Program can begin their 90-day reporting period to demonstrate meaningful use for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. Hospitals in their second and third years of participation must demonstrate meaningful use for the full FY.

Looking Ahead

Three other important dates for eligible hospitals and CAHs include:

- *September 30, 2013*—Last day of the FY 2013, and the end of the reporting year.
- *October 1, 2013*—First day of FY 2014, and the start of Stage 2 for hospitals in their third or fourth years of participation.
- *November 30, 2013*—Last day to register and attest to receive an incentive payment for FY 2013.

Want more information about the EHR Incentive Programs?

Make sure to visit our [website](#) to view resources for news and updates. ◆

Meaningful Use Update



HealtheConnections is a Regional Extension Center and Implementation Agent for New York State and assists providers with achieving meaningful use. Implementation agent outreach functions are to recruit providers, provide technical guidance and obtain signed participation agreements from each provider specific to the new program for which they qualify to enroll.

The deadlines are fast approaching so if you would like more information regarding eligibility for this program, please contact us at 671-2241 x 300 or email Support@healtheconnections.org. ◆

New Hires and Promotions



Dennis Sherba has been promoted to Director of HIE Integration. He has most recently led the project to migrate regional patient information to a new health information exchange (HIE) platform. Prior to his employment with HealtheConnections, Sherba was Project Coordinator focusing on hospital and clinical integration for Southern Tier Health Link (STHL). He received his B.S. in Computer Science and his MBA from St. Bonaventure University.



Timothy Kelly and **Debra Spaulding** have joined HeC as Provider Engagement Specialists. Kelly has an extensive background in hospital and healthcare from positions at Upstate University Hospital and New York Heart Center. He is a certified Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) and serves as a North Area Volunteer Ambulance Corps (NAVAC) volunteer. Kelly earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Syracuse University and his associate's degree in Healthcare Management from American Inter-Continental University. Spaulding previously



worked for Upstate University Hospital as a Business Analyst and at Emblem Health as a hospital contract manager. She has a bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology from the University at Buffalo and a Master's in Education from LeMoyne College. Both Kelly and Spaulding will focus on assisting regional providers to use their electronic medical systems in a "meaningful" way and to use the services of HealtheConnections HIE. ♦

Career Opportunities



HealtheConnections is offering new and exciting career opportunities!

- Business Intelligence Administrator**
- Business Intelligence Analyst**
- Integration Interface Programmer**
- Integration Interface Analyst**
- Provider Engagement Specialist**

For more details, visit www.healthconnections.org/RHIO/about/careers

Join a Dynamic, Growing Business.
Make a Difference.

Forms Added to Website

The forms you need to become a RHIO participant, add authorized users, or submit patient data requests are just a click away! Forms are now located under "Training Materials" on our [website](#) for easy access by authorized users and RHIO Administrators.

Support Policies and Functions

Our support staff can be reached via phone or email for questions regarding the HIE system. For a complete outline of support policies and functions, [click here](#) or visit the "Providers" tab on our website and click Support.

Support Phone: 315.671.2241 x5

Support Email: support@healthconnections.org

