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*National Association for Trusted Exchange on Fast Track to Facilitate Electronic
Clinical Data Exchange
Between Patients and Providers
Project Involves Multiple States, Vendors, and Health Care Organizations*

WASHINGTON, DC -- Helping patients make their medical records more portable so they can coordinate their care online across multiple providers is the goal of an innovative pilot project currently involving three states, five health information organizations, and three personal health record (PHR) companies.

The project, underway in California, Alaska and Oregon, is working to overcome physicians' concern that so-called "patient mediated exchange" may not be complete or accurate. It is aimed at ensuring that providers can successfully transfer medical data into a patient-controlled PHR, and that other physicians on the patient's care team can trust information sent to them from the patient's PHR.

"Putting the patient in charge of their data can expedite data exchange," Aaron Seib, CEO of the National Association for Trusted Exchange ([NATE](#)) said. "People have a right to their medical record and a right to disclose it to whomever they choose." According to Seib, complying with HIPAA rules and other policies that enable medical organizations to electronically exchange data is simplified when the choice to disclose data is in the patients' hands.

"Clinicians are looking for safe and secure methods to share electronic data with patients – especially those who want to transmit their information to a PHR," said James Killeen, MD, chief technical architect of the San Diego Health Information Exchange, a project participant. Killeen noted that being able to communicate with patients online is required for physicians to receive incentive payments under a federal program aimed at encouraging providers to adopt electronic health records.

The project is on a fast track. "In just over 30 days we brought together a broad group of stakeholders and rapidly developed a baseline approach that balances easy consumer access to data with the privacy and security safeguards necessary for trusted exchange," Seib said. "In the next phase, we want to engage additional PHR vendors and health care and health information exchange organizations to continue working on the baseline and update it with lessons learned."

Currently the pilot includes the following organizations and activities:

- [Humetrix](#) is working with [San Diego Health Connect](#) and the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) (VA) to transmit HIE and VA medical data to its [iBlueButton](#) mobile application. Veterans receiving care at VA or San Diego health care providers can receive and manage their health records from their different providers on their mobile device.
- The [Santa Cruz HIE](#) is working with provider organizations to deploy the NoMoreClipboard patient portal so they can exchange demographic and clinical data. The project will also build infrastructure for an HIE-wide patient portal.
- The [University of California San Diego](#) and San Diego Health Connect are collaborating with [Microsoft HealthVault](#) to provide asthma patients with environmental data, including air quality and weather information.
- The [Alaska eHealth Network \(AeHN\)](#) is collaborating with HealthVault and private providers to send Continuity of Care Documents (CCD) records from providers to the patient's HealthVault account and with the Department of Veterans Affairs to send CCD records that VA patients have received from VA outsourced providers from the patient's HealthVault account to their VA provider.
- In Oregon, [CareAccord®](#) is facilitating online exchange of clinical health information between the parents of chronically ill children and their pediatric patient-centered primary care home. Using the patients' free HealthVault account, parents can receive and send messages to providers without using disparate messaging systems.

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About NATE

The National Association for Trusted Exchange (NATE) is a not-for-profit focused on health information exchange whose membership is open to the HIE Programs of all states and territories of the U.S. This NATE pilot is coordinated in part by the State Health Policy Consortium, managed by RTI International and funded by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, as part of the PHR Ignite consortium project.

Visit nate-trust.org

About California's Office of Health Information Integrity

CalOHII is a State office within the California Health and Human Services Agency, which provides policy guidance and support to ensure that health information can be shared with the patient, the patient's providers and other key stakeholders in accordance with state and federal law. OHII provides education that may be used to shape policy and, when needed, convenes stakeholders and implements regulation to enable the secure transport of health information. CalOHII provides oversight and review of departments' compliance with implementation of HIPAA regulations. Additionally, CalOHII has an investigative arm to prosecute individuals that violate California medical information privacy laws. Visit www.ohii.ca.gov

About Alaska's Health IT Planning Office

The HIT Planning Office is an Office within the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services which is the State Designated Entity for Health Information Exchange in

Alaska. The HIT Planning Office is responsible for oversight of Alaska's HIE and EHR Incentive programs and ensuring the privacy and security of its citizens electronic health information. Visit <http://dhss.alaska.gov/hit>

About Alaska eHealth Network

Alaska eHealth Network (AeHN) is a carefully planned solution to better communicate vital medical information electronically – facilitating coordinated patient care, reducing duplicative treatments, and avoiding costly mistakes. AeHN is a non-profit organization operating a secure statewide, standards-based electronic health information exchange which allows individual Alaskans to access their own health record and to authorize their health care providers to exchange electronic medical data for treatment and billing. Visit <http://ak-ehealth.org/>

About the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration

VA operates the largest integrated health care delivery system in America. VA provides a broad range of primary care, specialized care, and related medical and social support services. VA is also the Nation's largest integrated provider of health care education and training for physician residents and other health care trainees. VA advances medical research and development in areas that most directly address the diseases and conditions that affect Veterans and eligible beneficiaries.

VA administers compensation benefits, pension benefits, fiduciary services, education benefits, vocational rehabilitation and employment services, transition services, and home loan and life insurance programs. VA operates the largest national cemetery system honoring Veterans and eligible beneficiaries and their families with final resting places in national shrines, and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation. To learn more, go to www.va.gov.

About Oregon's CareAccord®

CareAccord®, Oregon's Health Information Exchange, is administered by the Oregon Health Authority. CareAccord® facilitates the secure exchange of health information between Oregon's health care organizations and providers, enabling the coordination of care for better health, better care and lower cost. The Oregon Health Authority is at the forefront of lowering and containing costs, improving quality and increasing access to health care in order to improve the lifelong health of Oregonians. For more information, visit www.careaccord.org.

About Humetrix

Humetrix has pioneered the development of innovative consumer-centered IT solutions over the past 15 years, which have been deployed around the world. The company's iBlueButton and ICEBlueButton app are the mobile embodiment of the Federal Blue Button initiative launched in 2010 by the Veterans Administration, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the U.S. Department of Defense, now embraced by over 500 organizations and available to more than 100 million Americans. For more information, visit www.humetrix.com.

About NoMoreClipboard

NoMoreClipboard is a leader in electronic patient engagement, connecting consumers and clinicians to improve communication and foster collaboration. NoMoreClipboard gives consumers portable, interoperable personal health records to access, manage and share health information. Provider solutions include branded patient portals designed to integrate with clinical workflow, enhance efficiency and contribute to improved patient outcomes. Visit www.NoMoreClipboard.com for more information.

About Santa Cruz Health Information Exchange

The Santa Cruz Health Information Exchange is one of the oldest and most advanced multi-stakeholder exchanges in the country. The clinical network connects a large IPA, two local hospitals, several County Health Clinics, County Detention, Mental Health, seven national and local reference labs, five imaging centers and several safety net clinics. Visit www.santacruzhe.org

About San Diego Health Connect

San Diego Health Connect is a community-funded, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of all San Diegans through healthcare information sharing. San Diego Health Connect is governed by a board of directors composed of representatives of various types of healthcare providers and designated representatives of specific healthcare organizations. Visit www.sdhealthconnect.org

About Microsoft HealthVault

Microsoft HealthVault is a privacy- and security-enhanced online service designed to put people in control of their health information. Microsoft HealthVault helps you gather and store health information from various sources and share information with those you trust. Visit www.HealthVault.com to learn more.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq “MSFT”) is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

About University of California San Diego Medical Center

As the only academic health system in the region, UC San Diego Health System delivers outstanding patient care through commitment to the community, groundbreaking research and inspired teaching.

In 2013, UC San Diego Health System ranked #1 in San Diego with national rankings in 10 out of 16 specialties in U.S. News and World Report’s 24th annual “America’s Best Hospitals” issue – placing it among the country’s most prestigious institutions.

This is an incredible accomplishment! Being recognized as a top hospital both locally and nationally reflects the extraordinary talents and expertise of our physicians, nurses and staff – all of whom put patients first. UC San Diego Health

System is one place that can offer you and your family medical treatments not available elsewhere in the region. And we don't just treat disease – we treat you.

UC San Diego Health System physician – who number more than 850 – are acknowledged as leaders in their fields of medicine and surgery. Each year, many of them are named as “Top Docs” in San Diego Magazine’s “Physicians of Exceptional Excellence” annual survey performed in collaboration with the San Diego County Medical Society.

UC San Diego Health System, along with UC San Diego School of Medicine and UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are part of University of California, San Diego Health Sciences. In just over four decades, it has gained international recognition as one place where discoveries are delivered – bringing breakthroughs from the research lab bench to patients’ bedsides. Visit <http://www.ucsd.edu/>

About CHeQ (California Health eQuality)

CHeQ is a program of the UC Davis Institute for Population Health Improvement that administers statewide health information exchange (HIE) projects for California. Funded by the California Health and Human Services Agency, under the auspices of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT State HIE Cooperative Agreement, CHeQ is promoting coordinated and integrated care through health information exchange. Programs including a trusted exchange environment, improved public health capacity for electronic reporting, HIE acceleration funding opportunities, and the monitoring of HIE adoption lay a foundation for improved quality of care for all Californians. <http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/iphi/Programs/cheq/>

About RTI

RTI is an independent, nonprofit institute that provides research, development, and technical services to government and commercial clients worldwide. Their mission is to improve the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Within RTI, the Center for the Advancement of Health IT (CAHIT) supports research that improves the quality of health care in the United States and around the world by advancing the safe, effective, and efficient use of electronic health information to inform patient and population health care decision making, research, and practice. Visit www.rti.org

About Ascendian Healthcare Consulting

Ascendian Healthcare Consulting is a national leader in HIT solutions. We are renowned for our ability to help healthcare organizations rapidly adopt technology and innovative practices. Ascendian offers Imaging Systems Interoperability, HIT Strategic Planning for Implementation, Health Information Exchange (HIE) Planning and Deployment, VNA and Intelligent Archiving Development, Enterprise Radiation Dose Consulting and Health Information Privacy and Data Security Consulting. For more information, visit www.ascendian.com or call us directly at 866.323.7227.