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MiHIN
Shared Services

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New Video Educates Patients on Tools to Manage Their Health Information

Outreach aims to help patients take their healthcare into their own hands

WASHINGTON, DC / Lansing, MI (April 29, 2015) – The [National Association for Trusted Exchange](#) (NATE) and [Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services](#) (MiHIN) have released a new video to educate consumers on their rights to access their own health information, and to encourage consumers to take control of their health using smart devices and simple applications to request, view and store their personal health details.

Despite significant efforts from the healthcare industry to improve methods to securely communicate protected patient health data, many consumers remain unaware of their rights and options to view and manage their personal health information. Access to health details can benefit patients in multiple ways, from making it easier to remember health history when filling out forms at a new doctor's office to helping to care for a family member in need of assistance.

The new NATE/MiHIN video, viewable at <http://tinyurl.com/bluebuttonvideo>, was created as a brief introduction for consumers and healthcare providers. The video seeks to:

- Educate patients and doctors on patients' rights and options to access their health information
- Teach patients how to get a Direct secure email address, which is necessary for secure transmission of health details online
- Encourage patients to talk with their doctors about accessing their information electronically
- Educate patients on applications enabled with the Blue Button Electronic Health Record Retrieval System for health data
- Encourage doctors to adopt Direct secure email solutions to share data with patients
- Urge electronic health record (EHR) vendors to provide Direct solutions to their customer providers, enable Blue Button and become part of the [NATE Blue Button for Consumers \(NBB4C\) Trust Bundle](#)

“Using our smart devices with a Blue Button-enabled application enables any of us to receive and share our personal health records using the same secure methods used by doctors today,” said Aaron Seib, NATE CEO. “These Blue Button-enabled applications can help patients make sure their information is accurate, make it easier for you to share your information with all of your doctors, and generally have it available whenever and where ever you need it.”

NBB4C makes it easier for providers to share health information with their patients so that their patients can do what they want with it.

The tools depicted in the video are available now, but some doctors may not know how to help patients access and share information. The NATE/MiHIN video includes a link to a [downloadable letter that patients can share with their doctors](#) to better understand their rights and the options available for sharing health details electronically. Healthcare providers can also contact NATE for assistance in communicating with their EHR vendors.

“Patients have the right to use their information to manage their health and their family’s health,” said Jeff Livesay, Associate Director of MiHIN. “With the growing number of tools in the marketplace, it’s now easier than ever for consumers to manage their health. Our goal for this video is to start getting the message out that easy-to-use tools are available now and can be used today to give consumers full access to their health information, so they can use it anywhere, anytime they need it.”

For more information on how Blue Button-enabled applications and the NATE Blue Button for Consumers (NBB4C) Trust Bundle can help provide secure access to personal health information, visit <http://nate-trust.org/bluebutton> and <http://nate-trust.org/nbb4c>. To learn more about Blue Button and the government-sponsored Blue Button Initiative, visit <http://www.healthit.gov/patients-families/your-health-data>.

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About National Association for Trusted Exchange

The [National Association for Trusted Exchange](#) (NATE) brings the expertise of its membership and other stakeholders together to find common solutions that optimize the appropriate exchange of health information for greater gains in adoption and outcomes. Emerging from the Western States Consortium, a pilot project supported by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), NATE was established as a not-for-profit organization in May 2013. Consistent with NATE’s mission to address the legal, policy, and technical barriers that inhibit health information exchange between entities within a state and across states, NATE leads and participates in a number of ongoing and emerging projects in the HIE domain. NATE has been operating its own Trust Bundles in production since November 2012 and recently took over administration of the Blue Button Consumer Trust Bundles. Working with a broad set of stakeholders through multiple task forces, crowdsourcing and a call for public comment, NATE is proud to make available the first release of NATE’s [Blue Button for Consumers \(NBB4C\) Trust Bundle](#) beginning in 2015. NATE will soon move into a new phase of development around Blue Button Trust Bundles. Stakeholders interested in participating in the next phase of NATE’s work in consumer-mediated exchange should consider [NATE membership](#) or subscribe to [news from NATE’s PHR Community](#).

About Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services (MiHIN)

[Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services](#) (MiHIN) is dedicated to improving the health care experience, improving quality and decreasing cost for Michigan’s people by supporting the statewide exchange of health information and making valuable data available at the point of care. MiHIN is a public and private nonprofit collaboration between the State of Michigan, the Office of the National Coordinator, sub-state Health Information Exchanges, insurers, payers, providers and patients. For more information, please visit www.mihin.org.

Blue Button, the slogan ‘Download My Data,’ the Blue Button Logo, and the Blue Button Combined Logo are registered service marks owned by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Participation by NATE does not imply endorsement by HHS or the U.S. Government.

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