# Link4Health

## Health Information Technology

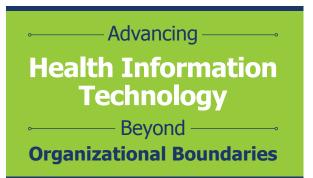
The Health Care Authority (HCA) is the Medicaid state agency in Washington, whose Health Information Technology unit leads our state's efforts to improve the health of our citizens through multiple federal and state projects. Learn how we lead the way on the effective sharing and use of electronic health information through three major projects:

- 1. Electronic Health Records (EHR) Federal Incentive Payment Program
- 2. Washington Link4Health's Statewide Clinical Data Repository
- 3. Expansion of HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act) Funding Opportunities in our state.

# Questions? Contact us.

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#### **EHR Incentive Payments**

This state-federal initiative promotes the use of certified electronic health record systems to improve health outcomes, reduce costs and advance care coordination across the health care industry.

Federal incentive payments are provided via each participating state's Medicaid agency to eligible, participating hospitals and eligible, participating professionals for the adoption, implementation, upgrade or meaningful use of certified technology. To qualify, participants must already be serving a benchmark level of Medicaid patients and meet annual adoption and Meaningful Use (MU) measures. For a list of certified products please visit this link: <a href="http://oncchpl.force.com/ehrcert">http://oncchpl.force.com/ehrcert</a>

There are challenges associated with different systems sharing information. To overcome these challenges, we are implementing a Clinical Data Repository to support connecting non-participating providers with participating providers to continue meeting the Meaningful Use criteria. The first information to be submitted to the Clinical Data Repository will be a care summary.

## Clinical Data Repository (CDR)

The CDR collects clinical information from dissimilar EHR systems located in provider offices and hospitals and accumulates this clinical information in one easily accessible location.

Authorized providers who care for Apple Health managed care enrollees can view clinical records in one of two ways:

- 1. They can import data from the CDR into their EHR and then view it, staying in their standard workflow.
- 2. They can log into a "portal" that will enable access for providers without certified EHR systems.

By providing access to clinical information from outside the organization or location, the CDR helps the care team gain a more real-time, comprehensive understanding of the patient's medical history. This enables authorized providers to achieve better results for their individual patients and improve overall community health outcomes. Various reports will also be available for providers and Managed Care Organizations.

The Washington State Health Care Authority is the first customer of this service being offered by our state's appointed Health Information Exchange (HIE).

#### Health Information Exchange

The HCA has formed a public/private partnership with the state's Health Information Exchange (HIE) in which both teams are working towards the increase of statewide interoperability.

Health Information Exchange refers to the statewide sharing of electronic health-related information in a manner that protects the confidentiality, privacy, and security of the information. Washington's statewide HIE is administrated by the appointed company, OneHealthPort, and uses national standards in order to increase interoperability, security, and confidentiality of information. It also supports standards for role-based access to the information.

As HCA expands efforts to increase statewide exchange of clinical information between authorized providers, gaps and needs are beginning to become apparent that the community will need to find solutions for.

#### **HIT Needs Assessment**

#### HITECH

Health Information Technology for Economic & Clinical Health Act

HCA's HealthIT Team will conduct a multiyear environmental scan to evaluate

the current environment of our state in order to identify the targeted investments needed to connect eligible, participating Providers to other

Medicaid providers and advance the level of health information sharing needed to support multiple Washington initiatives.

By leveraging established community relationships and existing meetings, we will seek community-wide input to identify and list existing gaps to our state achieving significant interoperability increases. We will use this list to develop our state's federal funding request for the additional monies identified in the Medicaid Director's Letter:

https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/SMD16003.pdf