



NCHICA to Deploy an NHIN Gateway for a Mature NC HIO

Asheville VA would have access to local patient data

NC Emergence Implementation Proposal Talking Points

Story of Health Information Exchange in Western North Carolina:

For several years, an HIO has been in operation in the mountains of North Carolina. It's called Data Link and it permits 16 hospitals to seamlessly share patient clinical information. Authorized physicians and clinicians view electronic records across Western North Carolina Hospital Network members. This network includes the Cherokee Indian Hospital. The Western North Carolina community served by this HIO has 750,000 patients in its Medical Trading Area.

Data Link Highlights:

- Connectivity across 16 hospitals that use many different EMR applications.
- Indian Health Service hospital has been actively participating in this community HIO
- 1500 authorized users and over 6,500 transactions occur monthly.
- No central clinical data repository or data warehouse used to store patient data.
- Available data include: admission/discharge, lab results, microbiology reports, radiology reports, medications, allergies, discharge summaries, history & physicals and other transcribed reports.

NHIN Emergence Implementation on Data Link:

Implementing the NHIN Gateway Service Interface Specifications with a mature Regional Health Information Organization in North Carolina would provide the following benefits:

- Prepares the foundation for the Asheville VA hospital to be able to exchange information within this Medical Trading Area through the NHIN.
- Demonstrates how an established, diverse HIO can become a node on the NHIN.
- Complements the state-wide North Carolina Strategic and Operational Plans by establishing a shareable, replicable production platform that meets NHIN standards.
- Leverages previous investment by Data Link's and their Corporate Partners (MEDSEEK and IBM) to expedite the NHIN connection.
- Planned for spring 2010 implementation pending state and national coordination.

