

# Health Information Exchange Vision and Strategies

## Draft—May 27, 2009

### Vision

**Stakeholders in Nebraska will cooperatively improve the quality of and efficiency of health care through a statewide, seamless, integrated patient-centered system of connected health information exchanges.** Nebraska will build upon the investments made in the state's health information exchanges and other initiatives which promote the adoption of health IT.

### Strategies

**The State of Nebraska will support the development and expansion of health information exchanges to improve the quality and efficiency of care.**

#### Actions:

- The State of Nebraska, primarily through the NITC's eHealth Council, will support efforts to obtain funding for health information exchange, including coordinating and submitting applications for funding as appropriate.
- The eHealth Council will work with other stakeholders to publicize health IT success stories within the state and to inform stakeholders of the benefits of health IT. Physicians in particular have been identified as key drivers in the adoption of health IT and health information exchange and should be targeted in educational efforts.
- The State of Nebraska will leverage its role as a payer in incentivizing the meaningful use of health IT by participating in the Medicaid Incentive program offered through the Recovery Act.
- The State of Nebraska will continue to address state laws which impact the exchange of health information within Nebraska and across state borders.

The Legal Work Group of the Nebraska Health Information Security and Privacy Committee (HISPC) reviewed Nebraska's health information disclosure laws to identify laws more stringent than HIPAA. Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-8403 stipulates that authorizations for release of medical records are valid for a maximum period of 180 days. The group recommended deleting the 180-day limit. HIPAA requirements would then apply, allowing patients to state an expiration date or expiration event.

The eHealth Council and E-Prescribing Work Group also identified a potential barrier to e-prescribing in a Nebraska statute that requires pharmacists to keep paper copies of prescriptions. A change to this statute which would allow pharmacists to keep copies of prescriptions in a readily retrievable format was included in LB220.

**The State of Nebraska will support the development of interconnections among health information exchanges in the state and across state borders.**

#### Actions:

- The eHealth Council will work with the state's health information exchanges to determine requirements for connections among exchanges; to explore options including connecting through NeHII or through NHIN's open source Connect software; to issue an RFP; and to evaluate proposals.

- The eHealth Council will work with the state's health information exchanges to map the adoption of standards which would enable the integration of data from disparate sources into EMRs. The migration to HL7 version 3 has been identified as a potential strategy.
- The eHealth Council will continue to work with the state's health information exchanges to harmonize policies and procedures which impact the sharing of health information across exchanges. The State of Nebraska and the state's health information exchanges have already made progress in this area. The state's health information exchanges have shared policies and procedures. Additionally, Nebraska participated in the national Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative's Adoption of Standard Policies group which examined business practices related to authentication and authorization.

Additional Comments:

Encourage education and training in health IT, health information exchange, and EHRs.

Identify specific, measurable quality goals.