

AT A GLANCE

As the regional health information organization (RHIO) and Qualified Entity (QE) serving the eight counties of Western New York, HEALTHeLINK is a collaborative effort among health care organizations to exchange clinical information securely and efficiently to improve the delivery of care, enhance patient outcomes, and help control medical costs. HEALTHeLINK was established through funding from the region's major hospital systems and health plans including BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York, Catholic Health System, Erie County Medical Center Corporation, Independent Health Association, Kaleida Health, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Univera Healthcare in addition to New York State's HealNY initiative.

Why is it important?

With consent, HEALTHeLINK allows doctors immediate and secure access to their patient's clinical data, regardless of where he or she has been treated previously. This can lead to:



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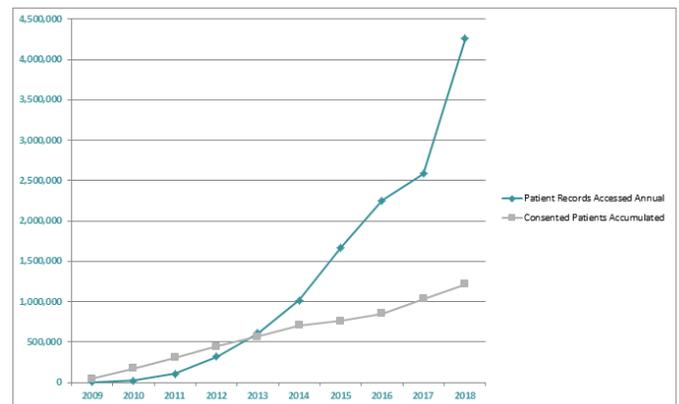
HEALTHeLINK Usage and Consents

With increased utilization of HEALTHeLINK and its health information exchange (HIE), more than 4 million patient records are securely accessed annually.

Key Statistics

- **More than 430** data sources connected and providing information, including **100%** of WNY hospitals.
- **More than 85%** of WNY practices participating, representing approximately **5,300** providers.
- **87%** of WNY adult population consented.
- **Nearly 100%** of laboratory results available.
- **More than 90%** of radiology reports available.
- **More than 230 million** reports available with approximately **2 million** reports added monthly.
- **More than 800,000** results delivered monthly to participating providers.
- **Nearly 650,000** patients subscribed to by their doctors to receive alerts on hospital admissions or discharges.
- A provider securely accesses records via HEALTHeLINK every **five** seconds.

Annual Usage and Consents Collected



Helping Providers Get Easier Access to Data

- Results delivery helps practices and care coordination networks easily receive medical results directly into one's electronic health record (EHR) for their patients from any other linked source through HEALTHeLINK.
- In support of care coordination and care transitions, participating providers can be notified in real time with alert notifications of their consented patients' admissions (including emergency department visits), discharges and transfers, or receive a file of all admissions and discharges in the previous 24 hours.
- Providers can elect to have a secure link included in radiology reports sent to their EHR through results delivery. This link provides one click access to the associated image or study.
- Query capability directly from a provider EHR is currently live with Catholic Health System, Erie County Medical Center, Kaleida Health System, and WCA Hospital. When providers are logged in to a patient chart, they can click the button, executing a single sign-on and no longer a need to log in to HEALTHeLINK separately.

For more information and to hear firsthand from Western New York providers about how HEALTHeLINK is working today, visit wnyhealthelink.com.

Proven Benefits

- HEALTHeLINK conducted an analysis to study the number of potentially unnecessary CT scans ordered for the same body part, for the same patient, within a six-month timeframe. Findings demonstrated the value of HIE in reducing unnecessary tests, saving time, money, and radiation exposure for patients.
- Clinical liaisons were placed inside three local emergency departments to shadow physicians for a 6-8 week period. According to study results, querying the HIE resulted in significant reduction in ordering labs and radiology exams.
- A practice workflow pilot explored the opportunity for deeper adoption and HIE usage to solve “pain points” for practices in obtaining patient information and proactively supporting office visits. A toolkit was developed to assist with increased integration of HEALTHeLINK, resulting in sustained utilization.

APPROXIMATELY 90%
OF THE POTENTIALLY UNNECESSARY DUPLICATIVE CT SCANS WERE ORDERED BY PHYSICIANS WHO EITHER NEVER OR INFREQUENTLY USED HEALTHeLINK.

ABOUT 50%
OF THE PATIENTS WHO HAD A DUPLICATIVE CT SCAN HAD ALREADY CONSENTED TO HAVE THEIR INFORMATION ACCESSED THROUGH HEALTHeLINK.



UP TO **52%** REDUCTION IN LABORATORY TESTS



UP TO **47%** REDUCTION IN RADIOLOGY EXAMS



UP TO
7 HOURS A WEEK
SAVED WITH PATIENT CHART PREPARATION AND PRE-VISIT PLANNING BY UTILIZING HEALTHeLINK'S PATIENT RECORD LOOKUP



A REDUCTION OF UP TO
30 MINUTES
IN PATIENT CYCLE TIME BY ACCESSING TEST RESULTS AND RECORDS IN ADVANCE VIA HEALTHeLINK

What's Ahead

- Increasing the quality of data available through the Inspector of Quality Healthcare Data (iQHD) tool which works with participants to optimize value of patient information sent to the HIE and ensure that providers uniformly complete EHRs with the correct data in the appropriate fields/categories.
- Targeted and intelligent delivery of patient information based on care setting and specialty, advancing the ability for patients' critical information to follow them wherever they seek treatment.
- Closure of significant gaps in data, specifically patient care plans, gaps in care, substance abuse data and medication initiatives. This includes working with providers and pharmacists to define the problem and develop potential solutions for utilizing HIE in medication management and reconciliation.
- With value-based payment coming, HEALTHeLINK is in a unique position to support the effective and efficient generation of quality measures.

Contributing to Public Health and Community Initiatives

- Since implementing HEALTHeLINK for its epidemiology and disease surveillance, the Erie County Department of Health is noticing significant improvements in tracking public health efforts, specifically for STD surveillance, treatment and prevention.
- Continued partnership with Millennium Collaborative Care and Community Partners of WNY to determine how best to leverage current health IT investment to support Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) projects.

Collaborating Beyond WNY

- HEALTHeLINK is connected with the seven other New York State RHIOs through the Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY). When physicians access HEALTHeLINK, they are alerted if there is any clinical information on their consented patients from other state RHIOs.
- HEALTHeLINK is a founding member of the Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC), the national trade association made up of more than 60 HIEs exploring ways to enable data exchange among physicians in different states who are treating the same patients.

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