

New England Healthcare Exchange Network

An Axial Executive Summary

December 15, 2009

NEW ENGLAND HEALTHCARE EXCHANGE NETWORK

In 2009, the New England Healthcare Exchange Network, Inc. (NEHEN) was formed by the merger of two existing healthcare exchanges: (1) the New England Healthcare EDI Network (NEHEN, LLC), which operated a broad-based exchange of administrative and financial healthcare data among payer organizations, provider organizations, and vendor organizations operating in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and (2) Massachusetts Simplifying Healthcare Among Regional Entities (MA-SHARE, LLC), which operated a more limited exchange of clinical healthcare data among payer organizations, provider organizations, and vendor organizations operating in Massachusetts.

Members of NEHEN incorporate the top 50 hospitals in Massachusetts and many physician groups, but only Beth Israel-Deaconess Boston, Boston Children's Hospital and the Northeast Health System are in the current clinical data exchange, which is based on a federated delivery model without a centralized Master Patient Index.

Patient Population and Content

It was represented during our interview that the number of patient lives attached is "uncounted." The majority of the patients are based in Eastern Massachusetts. Currently, the data is unstructured and the initial pilot has been based on the delivery of hospital discharge summaries. The data is sent in a CCD but it lacks the mandated content of a standard CCD.

Technology

The platform was developed and is supported by Computer Sciences Corporation and was built on a .NET platform, openly shared across NEHEN member organizations.

Data Sharing

NEHEN has established a policy framework that will guide the development of future data sharing agreements with NEHEN participants and with "External Trading Partners." The NEHEN Board of Directors is accountable for the execution of NEHEN's responsibilities which may be carried out by the Board itself and by NEHEN's employees, agents, vendors, and subcontractors.

NEHEN's responsibilities are to:

- Maintain this policy framework.
- Make this policy framework available to requestors upon request.
- Work with the Participants to identify new policies and policy changes required to operate the exchange.
- Manage development of data sharing agreements with Participants and related changes as needed to align them with current policies.
- Manage development of data sharing agreements with other trading partners and related changes as needed to align them with current policies.

- Provide consultative assistance to Participants in interpreting and implementing policies.
- Manage compliance with the policies as regards provision of clinical data exchange services to NEHEN Participants.

Decisions regarding the sharing of patient data will be made by the individual member organizations and their Institutional Review Boards. NEHEN is willing to consider well-constructed proposals, but this has not been identified as one of the core missions of the HIE. One unresolved issue is the structuring of patient consent in order to allow this secondary use of the data. NEHEN is interested in hearing ideas regarding how this issue might be addressed. They do believe it would be difficult to leverage existing data for research because the data has not been consented in advance for this purpose.

About Us

Axial Exchange has created a suite of products that extract clinical data from existing hospital information systems and deliver it in real-time to the people who need it:

- Primary care physicians receive real-time easy-to-read clinical information when patients visit the hospital, and prepare effectively for outpatient care.
- Medicaid case workers are notified of Emergency Department visits and prevent avoidable readmissions by ensuring that post-discharge treatment plans are followed.
- Researchers reduce patient recruitment costs for trials by identifying potential candidates as they enter the hospital.
- The Emergency Department receives real-time information collected during EMS transport, saving precious time in preparation for critical care.

For More Information

For more information about Axial Exchange, please contact us through any of the following:

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