



Indiana Health Information Exchange

## Backgrounder

**WHO:** The Indiana Health Information Exchange is a non-profit organization formed in 2004. It was formed by Indiana's major healthcare providers, payors, physicians, public and business leaders. Those include: Regenstrief Institute, Indiana University School of Medicine, BioCrossroads and a collection of Indiana's largest hospital systems (Clarian Health, Community Health Network, St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers, St. Vincent Health and Wishard Health Services). Other participants include the nation's largest health insurer (WellPoint), UnitedHealthcare and employer groups.

IHIE brings these stakeholders together to agree on practical, beneficial services at a sustainable price.

**WHAT:** The Indiana Health Information Exchange is one of the nation's most respected health information exchange organization. Health Information Exchange is a term used to describe the electronic movement of health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.

**WHY:** A lack of access to and coordination of information that already exists results in errors, misdiagnoses, patient safety issues, cost inefficiencies and other wastefulness. Unfortunately, without an interoperable, standards-based health information infrastructure that plugs the information gap, electronic medical records and other software solutions by themselves will not deliver any significant improvements in the U.S. healthcare system. It's also a patient safety issue: Medical errors take nearly 100,000 lives each year.

**HOW:** IHIE bridges the gap between paper-based and electronic-based medical sites by creating a network that can be used by physicians – using strict access control - physicians who don't yet have EMRs or other IT systems, providing reach to even the small or rural physician practices—the setting where over 80% of care is delivered *and* the least likely to have adopted an electronic medical record.

IHIE provides services that streamline the healthcare industry by delivering information at the most critical time: the point-of-care. Our goal is to align transparency, efficiency and quality to improve patient health.



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### Miscellaneous:

- A report released on January 19 by Booz-Allen and the Federation of American Hospitals recognized the benefits of information fast, free flowing (or 'liquid') information, which is an integral concept of Indiana's health information exchange. The report states that, "*Liquid health information can facilitate improvements in healthcare access, quality, safety, efficiency, convenience, and outcomes while opening many doors for new innovations and providing a foundation for a new standard of patient-centered, team-oriented healthcare.*"
- Practical benefits of health information exchange include: The frustration of remembering medication names and doses for patients would be a thing of the past. Retaking tests because of lost results, or results not getting to the provider in time, would also be eliminated. The physicians will have information at their finger tips where it is most critical - at the point-of-care. It opens up the dialogue between physician and patient. The list goes on.
- A 2003 study by the Markle Foundation's Connecting for Health initiative found pertinent patient data was unavailable in 81% of cases at an outpatient clinic.
- According to a recent survey by the American Health Information Community, between 2% and 12% of U.S. hospitals use comprehensive electronic medical record (EMR) systems. These solutions also must compliment existing workflow practices, policies and other procedures, and right now, we don't yet live in a digital world.