

Module 9 Overview

To Do Date: 10/29 - 11/4

Health Information Exchange

Welcome to Module 9!

For this week, we will be exploring the impact of electronic health records and health information exchanges. With the incorporation of various technologies, the healthcare system as a whole has moved from paper-based patient records to electronic-based patient records. This has had a major impact on accessibility for patients to their own health information. Additionally, this has impacted data governance in many ways with the implementation of Health Information Exchanges. This module will explore health information exchanges, as well as two specific case studies - one at the state-level and the other at the federal level.

Introduction

Health information exchanges (HIEs) have been emerging in order to provide the transfer of health records. While the uptake of these exchanges has been somewhat slow due to the costs there can be great benefits for both providers and patients. Some of the reasons for slow uptake include the training needed, system downtime, and the complexity of implementation.

The data governance of Health Information Exchanges requires the management of multiple perspectives and needs of various stakeholders. Since there are various participants using the Health Information Exchange such as doctors, patients, administration staff, and others it is important to build a consensus of the rules of exchange for information in HIEs. Furthermore, since this information needs to be protected, it is important to ensure proper governance that establishes access, sharing, and authorization of protected health information.

Case Study: State-Level Governance of Health Information Exchange

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 altered the development of HIEs in the United States. This law targeted the building of HIE infrastructure on a national level. The Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology embarked on the creation of interoperable systems for the exchange of medical records and funds were provided to support this endeavor. The ARRA created state-designated entities that became the governing boards of the state-level infrastructure and due to this all 50 states and seven territories in the US began to implement state-level HIEs.

The case study from the reading provides an important look into the major governance considerations for HIEs. Since HIEs facilitate the sharing and movement of data between many stakeholders and is both vital and sensitive information, governance is critical. There are several approaches to HIEs including the

patient look up model approach and the securing messaging approach, both of which have critical governance needs while the patient lookup model often garners more governance attention for various reasons.

For example, the patient lookup model provides an understanding of how HIEs are used in real life, for example in the Emergency Room Use Case where a physician is able to retrieve current information on a patient in order to assist in providing appropriate care. As described in the textbook, the patient lookup model requires a very complicated technical infrastructure and requires the use of Master Patient Indexes and Patient Identity Cross Reference and Patient Discovery Query Managers, common nomenclatures, and technical standards to ensure interoperability.

Values of HIE Governance Organizations

- Authority
- Leadership
- Neutral Convener
- Coordinate Policy Development and Strategic Planning
- Business Operations
- Accountability
- Transparency

These values, along with other standards, have helped HIEs with considerations of data governance, as HIEs continue to be implemented throughout the country. Additionally, there have been various models employed for being the governance of HIEs including centralized, decentralized, and hybrid models for HIEs.

Read

Required Readings

- **Chapter 8, Case Study: State Level Governance of Health Information Exchange.** Bhansali, Neera (2014). Data Governance: Creating Value from Information Assets, available online via IUPUI Library: <https://iu.skillport.com/skillportfe/main.action?assetid=51964>
(<https://iu.skillport.com/skillportfe/main.action?assetid=51964>)

Apply and Participate

You have two assignments for this week which you will find under "Activities" in the module.