

The Role and Experience of Public Health Departments in Current HIT Initiatives— A Round Table Discussion

An Overview

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What is Public Health?

Services offered in Public Health Departments

Table 1. Personal Health Services

Adult Immunization	91%	Family Planning	58%
Childhood Immunization	89%	WIC	55%
Tuberculosis Testing	88%	Prenatal Care	41%
STD Testing & Counseling	65%	Dental Care	30%
HIV Testing & Counseling	64%	HIV Treatment	25%
EPSDT	59%	Primary Care	18%

Table 2: Population-Level Services

Communicable Dis. Control	94%	Diabetes Screening	53%
Health Educ./Risk Reduction	87%	Cardiovascular Dis. Screening	50%
Epidem. & Surveillance	84%	Injury Control	37%
High Blood Pressure Screening	81%	Violence Prevention	22%
Tobacco use Reduction	68%	Occup. Safety & Health	13%
Cancer Screening	58%		

Other Functions in HDs?

- Direct management of health care facilities/programs—e.g., hospitals, clinics, school-based, emergency services, mobile
- Public health laboratory services
- Vital records management
- Health statistics management, population health status assessment
- Environmental health maintenance, protecting...

food	water supply	air quality
radiation control	noise pollution	vector control
solid waste mgmt.	occup. health and safety	

- Substance abuse prevention and treatment services
- Purview for Medicaid program
- Licensing of health professionals
- Licensing/inspection/certification of health-related facilities
- Purview over narcotics and dangerous drugs

Scope of HIT Initiatives in HDs

NEDSS/HAN

IT Infrastructure Enhancement
Data Warehouse

AND

BT IT initiatives

Disaster/Bus. Continuity PIng.

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC

Immunization Systems
School Health MIS
Chronic Disease Info Systems
Substance Abuse IT Systems

Healthy Start/Other MCH
WIC
Mental Health IT
Dental IT Systems

Vital Records Systems
Prof. Licensing Systems
Laboratory IT System

Environmental Health
Facility Licensing/Certification
Human Services IT

PLANNING/COMING SOON

Health Center and Hospital EMR
Hospital IT Systems

PHR
RHIO Projects

RHIOs—A Role for HDs

HD involvement is needed in RHIOs to ensure...

- Access to the data needed by typical HD srvcs/pgms
- Access to the data that its providers need
- That the data public health programs/services can contribute is built into exchange programs
- That the solutions/approaches consider full realm of data collection issues
- That HD technology constraints are addressed
- PH input into standards and policy development
- Enhancement of the public health infrastructure

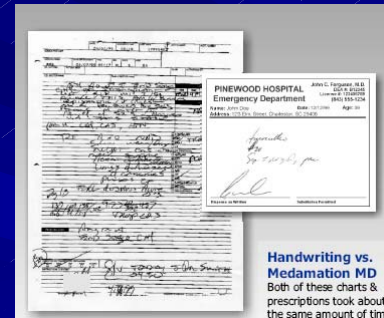
*Information-rich health care
must lead to information-rich public health*

RHIO Initiatives: The Challenges for HDs

- Overcoming the limited vision for public sector/HD role
- Scope of RHIO initiative: state versus local interoperability; implications for realized benefits
- Who's at the table—CIOs should be sitting at the table/HD executives with broader view of PH programmatic activities.
- Impact on workload—overloaded HD staff/providers
- HDs fair share of resources
- Legal barriers: PH data privacy and data sharing
- Assuring access to realtime data at the point of care—to support clinical care and surveillance activities; to incorporate HD current and planned IT systems

EHRs—A Role for HDs

“Adopting the EHR would not only enhance the information, data, and communication systems within the public health infrastructure, but would also increase the capacity of the organizational and system components of the infrastructure.”



“Electronic transmission of standardized data from the patient health record to public health agencies via the EHR is essential to support key public health functions and services...”

EMRs:

Internal Application in HDs

Relevant to:

Direct Care Services

Hospitals

Mental health clinics

Dental clinics

Homeless shelter care

Offsite health centers

School health clinics

Subst. abuse trtmt. clinics

Mobile health care

Relevant to:

Surveillance

Chronic care management

Health status assessment

EMR Initiatives: The Challenges for HDs

- Generic issues others face:
 - seed money to adopt and funds to sustain; risks in selecting software; level of effort required to pursue projects
- Unrecognized player
- Funding limitations/stipulations
- Scope of deployment
- Slow timeframe
- Interoperability issues/software capacity
- Level/duplication of effort to plan and implement
- Having a voice in EMR certification process

Recommended Considerations

- **Public Health Role** - expand viewpoint on PH role in HIT initiatives
- **Funding** - enhance funding/improve funding strategies to support scope of PH IT needs
- **EMR Solutions** - increase PH involvement
- **HIT Initiatives Overall** - target HDs, as well as small and medium practices
- **Strategy** - promote strategic management of IT in HDs
- **Outcomes** - establish outcomes measures for PH industry involvement in IT initiatives

At the end of the day, HDs want...

HIT initiatives/funding to align with HD IT plans and full scope of functions/activities

AND

an improved public health IT infrastructure...
the building of a PH systems capacity nationwide

Thank you.

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