Health Information Exchange and Electronic Health Record Systems: How are they different?

Background:

States around the country have implemented Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) to support the citizens in their states. The Wyoming Department of Health began planning to build a statewide Health Information Exchange for Wyoming in 2015. The Statewide HIE, known as the Wyoming Frontier Information (WYFI) Health Exchange, went live in 2018. The mission in Wyoming is to promote a healthier Wyoming by developing a secure, connected and coordinated statewide health IT system that supports effective and efficient healthcare. The goal is to improve patient care and reduce system inefficiencies.

An HIE connects to a provider's Electronic Health Record (EHR) to support patients and improve patient care. There are many EHRs and national networks that support providers and at times offer similar services to an HIE.

Examples of national networks:

The Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) is a technical and legal framework for supporting nationwide stakeholders with secure access to electronic health information.

The eHealth Exchange provides federal agency data from the Social Security Administration, Department of Defense, Indian Health Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Food and Drug Administration. This network encourages interoperability on a national level to improve patient care nationwide. The eHealth Exchange is also connected to hundreds of provider EHRs.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Information Network (PHIN) is meant to provide the public sector with access to necessary healthcare information. The intent is to impact community interventions as a result of outbreaks.

National networks provide access to nationwide patient data without the need to connect with multiple networks.

Examples of large-scale EHR Networks:

CommonWell connects large health systems, clinics, specialists and care venues. They are now connected with Carequality in an effort to become a nationwide health IT interoperability network.

Epic Everywhere defines itself as an interoperability platform utilizing the Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture (C-CDA) to enable document exchange in care transitions.

Oracle/Cerner Health is an interoperability platform that facilitates data sharing with affiliated and non-affiliated community healthcare entities.

| Connection Comparison	WYFI	Large-Scale EHR Networks
eHealth Exchange Connection	Yes	Yes
Wyoming Immunizations	Yes	Maybe
Other State HIEs	Yes	Maybe
Medicaid Medical Claims	Yes	No
Vital Statistics	Yes	No
EMS Trips	Yes	No
Medicaid Eligibility	Yes	No
*Mountain Co-Op Insurance Payor	Yes	No
Social Security Administration	Yes	No
Any EHR Vendor	Yes	No
Public Health Nursing	Yes	No
Department of Corrections	Yes	No
Medicaid Pharmacy Claims	Yes	No
Wyoming Medicaid Health Management	Yes	No
*Patient Centered Data Home	Yes	No

*Connection work in process

What makes the Wyoming HIE different from EHRs and national networks?

- WYFI and other HIEs are not vendor-centered and therefore connect with many different EHR vendors that providers use. This means connected providers will have access to patient information outside of their EHR vendor's network.

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- An HIE has a robust data management process and data filtering abilities which apply higher levels of data quality standards. The data available from an HIE isn't just received and transmitted data, as with a national network, but rather structured data that makes utilization more valuable. For example, the data can be used to send notifications to providers without any action on the provider's part.
- State-specific data is available with an HIE connection that may not be available otherwise. For example, immunization data from the Wyoming Immunization Registry, Lab results from the Wyoming Public Labs, Medicaid pharmacy claims, Medicaid medical claims, Medicaid eligibility, and Emergency Medical Services trip reports can be accessed.
- In Wyoming, Utilization Management is federally required to collect the census data from Hospitals that provide services to Wyoming Medicaid patients. If the hospital is connected to WYFI, manual reporting isn't necessary since the Medicaid office can pull the data through our system. This means the hospital doesn't have to submit the report manually.
- WYFI will act as a pass-through system for hospital reporting on birth and death records. This data will be sent directly to Vital Statistics to reduce multiple reporting systems and manual reporting to Vital Statistics. This option will cut down on duplication of efforts and system inefficiencies.

WYFI Hospital Connections by County

Connected
In Process
Not Connected
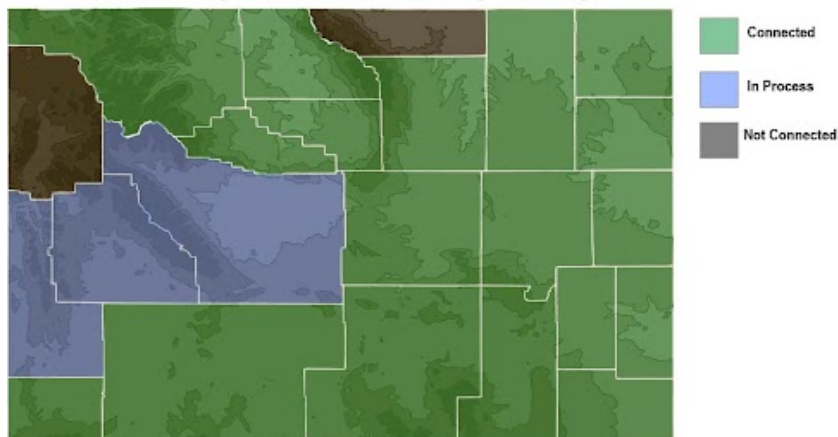
For a complete list of WYFI participating providers, please visit our website at
https://wyfi.solutions/data-contributing-providers/

- WYFI is connected to the eHealth Exchange. This connection will provide patient information from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, Indian Health Services, and Department of Defense. In addition, eHealth Exchange data includes information from hospitals around the country and many state and regional HIEs. Therefore, WYFI participants won't have additional connection costs for their own connection to the eHealth Exchange since the information can be accessed through WYFI.

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- Connecting to state HIEs support local citizens and providers to ensure health information can be accessed appropriately and timely to enhance patient care and avoid duplicate testing. Providers support their state and local communities by connecting to WYFI. Wyoming citizens will receive more efficient patient care if providers are connected. Keep the 307 brand strong!
- State HIEs provide view-only access for providers who do not have certified EHRs. Meaning they can still access their patient's hospital records as long as the hospital is connected to the HIE.
- Participation in the HIE is required to take advantage of certain Medicaid programs such as supplemental payment programs.