Completing the Loop
Improving health care through information exchange

California Health eQuality (CHeQ) is a program of the Institute of Population Health Improvement at UC Davis Health System.

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(CHeQ)
California Health eQuality

The California Health eQuality program promotes coordinated health care for Californians by catalyzing the adoption and implementation of Health Information Exchange by:

• Enabling inter-organizational and interstate exchange
• Supporting uniform standards
• Supporting public health
• Supporting regional initiatives
and public health capacity, and (4) accelerating and standards, (3) improving population health management (2) supporting uniform use of national interoperability environment for the exchange of health information. As of May 2013, NATE completed its initial pilot and providers in California, Oregon, and Alaska are now exchanging patient information for treatment purposes; Nevada, Hawaii, and Utah will be included in the near future.

**SUPPORTING UNIFORM STANDARDS**

**HIE Ready**
The HIE Ready Buyers’ Guide provides a convenient, single source for identifying the base features and standards that should be in place to facilitate health care data exchange today. The guide provides physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers a criteria-based assessment of an EHR product’s and HIO readiness to exchange information. This program builds on Stage 1 Meaningful Use requirements and prepares providers for Stage 2 by showcasing what is possible now.

**Laboratory Mapping Assistance Project**
Provides technical assistance to clinical laboratories for mapping results to LOINC®, a national standard for laboratory data, in support of Stage 2 Meaningful Use requirements.

**IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY**
In addition to supporting increased care coordination by providing more complete information at the point of care, HIE also is important for improving public and population health. Two CHeQ programs are specifically aimed at improving the health of California’s population.

**Immunization Gateway Service**
The Immunization Gateway will increase the capacity for health care providers in California to electronically submit patient immunization records.

**Project INSPIRE**
Project INSPIRE supports the exchange of health information important for population health improvement and care coordination for persons with various ‘high impact’ medical conditions. An initial pilot project focuses on improving the collection and reporting of, and access to, diagnostic and treatment information for cancer—for both population health and clinical treatment purposes. Project INSPIRE will cost-effectively mobilize health information from disparate sources to population health management and disease registries, reducing data management costs and improving access to clinical information, case management, and patient care.

**ACCELERATING HIE IMPLEMENTATION**
Significant gaps exist in the ability to exchange health information in California. CHeQ funds a broad range of initiatives aimed at addressing these gaps.

**Expansion Awards**
Assists community HIOs with capital investments in HIE infrastructure as they expand services and increase robust exchange between unaffiliated health care entities in their regions.

**Planning Awards**
Supports needs assessments, governance formation and development of an HIE strategic and business plan for emerging community HIO initiatives in the planning stage.

**Infrastructure Awards**
Provides technical assistance for interface development between HIOs, providers EHRs, and other systems.

**Innovation In Data Analytics Awards**
Supports population health management through innovative projects that demonstrate the value of data analytics across unaffiliated provider systems.

**California Blue Button® Initiative**
CHeQ assesses statewide HIE adoption as part of the ONC requirements to monitor progress and report changes to California's HIE landscape. CHeQ also closely evaluates its programs to assist policymakers and stakeholders in making informed, evidence-based decisions.

**Rural HIE Incentive Program**
Promotes qualified HIE service providers that provide specific exchange capabilities in rural California. Rural health care providers will be able to adopt high-priority, standards-based HIE from these qualified vendors at an affordable price.

**HIE Coordination In The Greater Los Angeles Area**
Promotes sustainable coordination between regional HIE initiatives and expands HIE by safety net providers in the Greater Los Angeles Area.

**THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH +QUALITY (CHeQ) program**
seeks to improve the coordination of health care by catalyzing the adoption and implementation of health information exchange (HIE). Funded by the California Health and Human Services Agency, CHeQ is part of the nationwide efforts of the U.S. Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)’s State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program. CHeQ uses a multi-pronged approach aimed at (1) building a trusted environment for the exchange of health information, (2) supporting uniform use of national interoperability standards, (3) improving population health management and public health capacity, and (4) accelerating and monitoring the development of HIE in California.

**BUILDING A TRUSTED EXCHANGE ENVIRONMENT**
To achieve the quality of care and health care safety benefits of HIE requires that stakeholders trust that information is securely exchanged with trusted organizations—i.e., that there is a trusted information exchange environment. CHeQ is working to create an environment that promotes widespread exchange of health information between organizations and across state lines while respecting and protecting patient privacy.

**Directory and Trust Services**
Directory and trust services establish a technical framework, coupled with a trusted environment, that will enable providers, health care institutions, public health, and patients to freely exchange health information across organizational and state boundaries without needing to establish thousands of point-to-point sharing agreements.

**National Association for Trusted Exchange (Formerly Western States Consortium)**
NATE represents a group of states working to establish policies, procedures, and technologies that will facilitate secure, interoperable exchange of health information. As of May 2013, NATE completed its initial pilot and providers in California, Oregon, and Alaska are now exchanging patient information for treatment purposes; Nevada, Hawaii, and Utah will be included in the near future.

**Supporting Uniform Standards**

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