

Health IT Grants

There are currently two grant projects underway within the Health Information Technology (Health IT) Division of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH). A project overview for each follows.

Project – Consumer-Mediated Health Information Exchange

Rome (Floyd County) Breast Cancer Patients Use Technology to Navigate Treatment Their Way



Project Description

In 2011, DCH was awarded a \$1,689,992 Challenge Grant from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The federal grant funded a health information technology (health IT) solution to help cancer patients better navigate their health care treatment.

DCH is partnering with the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) and the Rome (Floyd County) medical community – Floyd Medical Center, Harbin Clinic and Redmond Regional Medical Center – to execute this initiative. This community's commitment to improving the quality of health care is a key reason why this grant was one of only two in the nation awarded to investigate how best to implement personal health records.

Project Goals – Consumer-Mediated Health Information Exchange

- To demonstrate how patients – and breast cancer patients specifically – can use health IT to become an integral partner on their health care team.
- To develop a health IT solution that focuses on improving patient-provider communications and care coordination through the use of secure personal health records.
- To develop patient-centered technology and processes that gives patients access to, and a degree of control over, their health care outcomes.

FACT SHEET



An Overview of Health IT Grants

Project Tools

MyJourney Compass, a tablet PC loaded with custom and off-the-shelf applications includes a personal electronic health record and provides secure connectivity for communicating with health care providers via GeorgiaDirect and the Georgia Health Information Network (GaHIN). MyJourney Compass is also used for organizing patient health records, managing treatment symptoms and schedules, and understanding diagnosis and treatment options.

Project Hypothesis

MyJourney Compass enables increased patient engagement – giving patients a sense of personal control and driving patient compliance. This can lead to better health outcomes, lower costs of care and improved safety delivered across multiple transitions of care.

Project Timeline

The project is slated for completion in March 2014. Project findings will be published after the final report is submitted to the ONC.



Project – Patient-Friendly Access to Patient Medical Information

Chatham County Health Information Exchange Represents Georgia in National Consumer Innovation Challenge

Project Description

In March 2012, ChathamHealthLink (CHL) was selected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to participate in a nationwide challenge. The ONC identified Health Information Exchange (HIE) leaders from around the country, including ChathamHealthLink, to pioneer this innovative program.



ChathamHealthLink is the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council's community-based Health Information Exchange (HIE). With support from DCH, Chatham County residents will benefit from CHL's participation in this federal program that promotes secure, patient-friendly access to important patient health information.

FACT SHEET



An Overview of Health IT Grants

Project Goals – Patient-Friendly Access to Patient Medical Information

- To increase patient access to their electronic health information records.
- To make health record access quick, easy, secure and understandable for patients.
- To help patients lead healthier lives.

Project Tools

CHL is working with DCH and the Georgia Health Information Technology Extension Center (GA-HITEC) to provide secure email addresses for patients. For example, the secure email messaging will give patients access to their laboratory results ordered by a participating CHL health care provider and performed by any participating CHL laboratory. Patients will then be able to track their lab results through a single secure health record stored in CHL.

Project Hypothesis

CHL matches individual patient data sent from a variety of sources into a single longitudinal record for the patient. When patients access their data through ChathamHealthLink or other trusted HIEs, they connect to a single secure source for their information rather than gathering information from a number of health care provider sources and organizing it themselves.

Project Timeline

The project was completed in September 2013. Project findings will be published after the final report is submitted to the ONC.

For More Information

For more information about the programs of work in the Georgia Department of Community Health's Division of Health Information Technology, please visit www.dch.georgia.gov/health-information-technology or email us at HITT@dch.ga.gov.