Benefits of Health Information Exchange (HIE)

What is health information exchange (HIE)?

Health information exchange allows providers to access and share a patient's medical information electronically for the purpose of patient care. HIE can improve the safety, quality, and efficiency of patient care. Sharing of patients' medical information between providers can improve care by avoiding hospital readmissions, medical errors, and duplicate testing.

What are the benefits of HIE?

HIE can improve care coordination, reduce unnecessary treatments, and avoid costly mistakes. HIE has a number of benefits:

- Improve patient safety by reducing medication and medical errors
- Increase efficiency by eliminating unnecessary paperwork
- Provide caregivers with clinical decision support for more effective care and treatment
- Eliminate redundant or unnecessary testing
- Improve public health reporting and monitoring
- Engage healthcare consumers regarding their own personal health information
- Improve healthcare quality and outcomes, and
- Reduce health-related costs

What are the types of HIE?

There are currently three forms of health information exchange. Directed exchange has the ability to send and receive data electronically between care providers to support coordinated care. Query-based exchange allows for providers to find and/or request information on a patient from other providers. Consumer-mediated exchange allows for patients to compile and control the use of their health information by providers.

Where can I get more information about HIE?

For more information on health information exchange, visit: https://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/health-information-exchange/what-hie