

Inside eHHR

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ConnectVirginia Update – Virginia’s Health Information Exchange

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and Community Health Alliance continue to work closely with the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Governing Board to implement Virginia’s statewide health information exchange, ConnectVirginia. Several hospital systems have either onboarded to ConnectVirginia or are waiting in the wings to onboard. INOVA was onboarded in April, 2013. The Virginia Hospital Center is in the process of joining ConnectVirginia. There are also commitments from UVA, MedVA and from the state via VDH. It is hoped that VDH will be connected by the end of 2013.

Recently VDH’s Commissioner, Dr. Cynthia Romero, sent out a letter to hospitals and providers informing them that ConnectVirginia will be THE way to interact with public health once VDH is onboarded. ConnectVirginia will also be providing a physician portal for those providers who are not able to onboard via a hospital node. In addition to Direct, the Physician Portal and Query and Exchange, Community Health Alliance is in the process of creating an Admissions, Discharges, and Transfers (ADT) service and an encounter alerting system. Finally, the grant provided to VDH by the Office of the National Coordinator, ends in February 2014. Therefore, a major focus during the past six months has been developing and implementing a viable sustainability plan for the statewide HIE going forward.



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Kicks Off Implementation of New Information Management Strategy

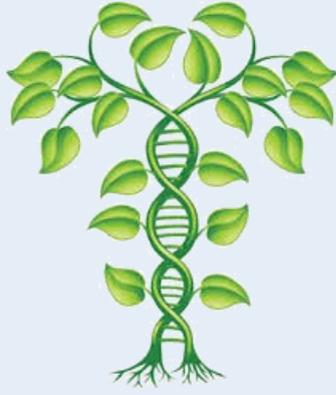
The Commonwealth’s vision for improving the way the State manages its information has taken flight with the formal adoption of the Enterprise Information Architecture (EIA) Strategy, signed by Secretary of Technology Jim Duffey on August 14, 2013. This significant milestone is the result of a Commonwealth-wide effort to articulate a strategic vision for data governance, standardization, asset management, and sharing. Virginia information Technologies Agency (VITA) facilitated a series of sessions over the summer involving more than 120 stakeholders from over 30 agencies to formulate the strategy that enables Virginia to become “One Commonwealth . . . Well Informed.”

More than 130 data standards have been adopted to date within the Commonwealth, the majority dedicated to health IT standards. The Health Information Technology Standards Advisory Committee (HITSAC), chaired by Dr. Marshall Ruffin of Inova Health Systems, has been a guiding force in the Commonwealth’s effort to standardize health data. In addition, the Commonwealth Data Standardization Final Plan (Item 427, 2012 & 2013 Appropriation Acts) calls for the standardization of all “citizen-centric” data as well as a process model for the adoption of standards for other enterprise data. The Commonwealth is following in the footsteps of the federal government with the adoption of the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) as a basis for which all personal information is exchanged. All of these efforts towards data standardization highlight the Commonwealth’s dedication to maintaining high-quality and timely information while promoting security, privacy, confidentiality, and a greater return on investment for information assets.

The Commonwealth is utilizing both a top down and a bottom up approach towards data governance. VITA’s Commonwealth Data Governance (CDG) organization will be responsible for reviewing proposed investments as part of the IT Investment Management (ITIM) process to ensure compliance to adopted data standards. In addition, a Commonwealth data stewards group will convene in early 2014 with representation from all agencies to take a lead role in governance and to further implement information management initiatives for data sharing and data asset management.

For more information regarding the Commonwealth’s Enterprise Information Architecture or to become involved, please contact Nicole Helmantoler (Commonwealth Data Governance) at nicole.helmantoler@vita.virginia.gov or 804-402-1800.

Virginia Vital Records Collaboration with Ancestry.com



VDH entered into a contract with Ancestry.com in August 2013 to digitize and image over 17 million vital records and to create an associated index for genealogy purposes. Ancestry has installed 23 workstations in the Vital Records offices including sophisticated imaging and redaction tools. The genealogy index will be available by December 2015.

Resources for Assistance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (also known as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare), Virginians have access to several services to get information or assistance on how the Act may affect individuals and families in Virginia:

CoverVA.org – Virginians can get information regarding Medicaid, FAMIS, the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace, and other community health care options from the new Cover Virginia website

CommonHelp.Virginia.gov – Virginians can apply for Medicaid or FAMIS as well as social service programs online at Virginia’s CommonHelp website

Healthcare.gov – Individuals can access the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace online at this website or by calling 1-800-318-2596 to purchase private health insurance. They can determine if they are eligible for federal tax credits or subsidies to help pay for health insurance (Spanish version www.CuidadoDeSalud.gov)

Department of Social Services – As always local Department of Social Services offices can help with questions and application for Medicaid, FAMIS, and other benefits

Cover Virginia Call Center – Virginians without access to a computer can apply for Medicaid or FAMIS by calling the Cover Virginia Call Center at 1-855-242-8282

There are also federally certified Navigators and Certified Application Counselors available to help people understand and apply for health insurance through the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace. Virginia Poverty Law Center, Inc. and Advanced Patient Advocacy are serving as Navigators in Virginia:

The Virginia Poverty Law Center, Inc.
www.ENROLL-Virginia.com
 1-888-392-5132

Advanced Patient Advocacy, LLC
www.EnrollAPA.com

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in Virginia WHAT IT MEANS FOR ALL VIRGINIANS



All Payer Claims Database Update

During the 2012 session of the General Assembly, HB343 directed the creation of an All Payer Claims Database (APCD) for Virginia. The legislation called for the Virginia Department of Health to enter in to a contract with a non-profit to create this database. VDH is now working with Virginia Health Information (VHI) to create this new tool for the Commonwealth.

The APCD is a collection of all claims information in Virginia. This information is to be used for very specific purposes including public health and population health reporting, research and as a tool to determine the cost and efficiency of healthcare. The ultimate goal in creating and using an APCD is to improve health outcomes going forward. Milliman and MedInsight were brought onboard in June 2013 to facilitate the collection of claims data. They have been working with VDH and VHI closely to begin the collection of data in a standardized, secure, and accurate manner. Several demos have been provided through Milliman, including demos to VDH epidemiologists and to the APCD Advisory Committee. Test data is currently being collected and sanitized. The project is on track to begin producing reports from the APCD in the Spring 2014.

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Questions or Comments?

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