South Carolina Health Information Exchange (SCHIEx)

SCHIEx is a statewide technology and policy framework that enables participating health care providers using electronic health record (EHR) systems to exchange clinical information for treatment and public health and quality reporting purposes. SCHIEx complies with Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN) specifications for secure data exchange and nationally recognized interoperability standards. This enables providers with systems that also comply with these standards to electronically share key clinical information such as medical histories, medications, allergies, diagnoses, and procedures once on-boarded to SCHIEx.

SCHIEx offers its Participants access to a single, statewide health information exchange (HIE) that can enhance coordination of patient care among providers, improve the quality and efficacy of care that a patient receives, improve patient safety, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, and enhance public health and disease detection and monitoring. While SCHIEx can help improve health care, patients who do not wish to have their information shared through SCHIEx have the right to opt out.

The SCHIEx core technology is built on a federated, network-of-networks model for electronic health information exchange. The SCHIEx federated architecture means each participating provider can continue to maintain their clinical data, eliminating the need for a centralized clinical data repository. The SCHIEx core services and policies function such that Participants query and retrieve clinical information directly from other Participants involved in a patient’s care. The network-of-networks model gives providers flexibility in how they participate. A provider or organization may choose to participate independently, as part of an integrated delivery network, or as a member of a health information exchange organization.

Relationship with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC)

SCHIEx is the designated statewide Exchange in the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program. As such, SCHIEx is required to implement a sustainable, statewide HIE for South Carolina health care providers that complies with national standards and helps address the HIE related requirements for each phase of Meaningful Use in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. For example, providers that participate in SCHIEx can share patient care summaries across unaffiliated organizations and exchange data with the Public Health Immunization Registry.

The State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program is administered by the SC Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of the State of South Carolina. SCHIEx is governed by the Interim Governance Committee (IGC) appointed in 2009 by Executive Order. Its business and technical operations are performed by the SC Budget and Control Board Division of Research and Statistics.
SCHIEx Services
SCHIEx has available NOW the policy framework and technology services to support robust EXCHANGE-the discovery, query, and retrieval of clinical information by participating health care providers at the point of care. In addition, SCHIEx offers a Clinical Viewer for providers who prefer it to their own EHR system’s external record display, access to the Surescripts/RxHUB Pharmacy Exchange (Surescripts fees apply), a NwHIN gateway, and bi-directional exchange with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) Public Health Immunization Registry. SCDHEC and SCHIEx are working together to add electronic lab reporting (ELR) and syndromic surveillance to the SCHIEx technology platform. Beginning in 2012, SCHIEx will include a DIRECT messaging service that will allow SCHIEx Participants to securely send or push a clinical message to a known receiver. Like robust EXCHANGE, SCHIEx DIRECT messaging will comply with NwHIN standards.

SCHIEx Early Adopter Program
Interested providers are invited to enroll in the SCHIEx Early Adopter Program. The Early Adopter Program builds on the SCHIEx Pilot Adopter Program and includes a waiver of SCHIEx subscription fees through December 31, 2012. An interactive map of Pilot/Early Adopter Program participants is located on the bottom of the SCHIEx home page at www.SCHIEx.org. Information about enrolling in the Early Adopter Program is located in the yellow notification box located at the top of the page.

Your Technology and SCHIEx
Providers who may be considering SCHIEx now or in the future should prepare by working with their current or prospective technology representatives/vendors regarding SCHIEx interoperability requirements. ONC certification does not necessarily mean a particular EHR product is currently able to address the national interoperability standards (IHE/HITSP) and technical requirements to participate in SCHIEx. The SCHIEx technical specifications are outlined in the SCHIEx Interoperability Services Guide located on the For Providers, Connecting to SCHIEx page at http://www.schiex.org/connecting.php. SCHIEx Interoperability experts are available to participate in calls with you and your technology representatives to discuss specific questions about on-boarding to SCHIEx.

How to Learn More
Information about SCHIEx is available on its Website located at www.SCHIEx.org. The For Providers page includes detailed information about SCHIEx services, how to connect, subscription fees, SCHIEx policies and legal agreements, implementation resources, and frequently asked questions.

You may also Contact Us
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Let’s Get Connected!