South Carolina Health Information Exchange (SCHIEx) Provider Update

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SCHIEx Provider Forum and LIVE Exchange Demonstration

In December approximately 100 providers and stakeholders attended the SCHIEx Provider Forum in Charleston, SC and saw a live connectivity demonstration of SCHIEx EXCHANGE and SCHIEx DIRECT Secure Messaging. The demonstration was the highlight of the half-day Forum which also included presentations from state and national speakers regarding health information exchange and SCHIEx. Planning is already underway for the next SCHIEx Provider Forum to be held in the Columbia area this spring.

The SCHIEx EXCHANGE Demonstration featured two ambulatory EHR systems, eClinicalWorks and SuccessEHS and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Immunization Registry. Attendees saw in real-time a Continuity of Care document being created, electronically shared, and then were able to view the documents seamlessly from inside each EHR system. Similarly, each system demonstrated capability to automatically report immunizations to the DHEC Immunization Registry and to retrieve and display Immunization Records from the Registry.

THE SCHIEx DIRECT demonstration featured a primary care and behavioral health integration use case. Continuity of Care documents were sent and received between a primary care provider, inpatient psychiatric facility, and the SC Department of Mental Health (DMH).

SCHIEx thanks everyone who participated in the December Forum and the following providers and vendors for their contributions to the demonstrations: SC DMH and Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center, Fairfield Medical Associates and eClinicalWorks, Little River Medical Center and SuccessEHS, Low Country Medical Group, Roper Saint Francis Healthcare, MUSCHealth, and SC DHEC.

SCHIEx DIRECT

SCHIEx now has two electronic information exchange tools. In addition to SCHIEx EXCHANGE... SCHIEx DIRECT is available! Any provider or organization involved in health care treatment, payment, or operations is eligible to participate in SCHIEx DIRECT. It is a simple, secure clinical messaging service that allows Participants to electronically send and receive information needed to support the delivery of health care. No specialized equipment or interface is required. Providers and organizations with EHR systems as well as those without can communicate via SCHIEx DIRECT.
SCHIEx DIRECT can be thought of as an open-standards, encrypted "Health Email". Each Participant is assigned a unique SCHIEx address to direct the message....similar to a regular email address. Unlike regular email, SCHIEx DIRECT meets required security standards for sending Protected Health Information. It complies with Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) DIRECT Project reference specifications and can assist with exchange-related requirements in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. For more information go to http://www.schiex.org/direct.php.

SCHIEx Technology Platform and Future Capabilities
SCHIEx currently provides robust EXCHANGE, DIRECT secure messaging, a clinical viewer, and bi-directional gateways with the SC DHEC Immunization Registry and the nationwide health information network eHealth Exchange. These services allow SCHIEx to manage information exchange requests between individual providers and between local provider networks or “neighborhoods”. They can also be leveraged to facilitate exchange within a local neighborhood where organizations use different EHR systems. The SCHIEx EXCHANGE gateways provide access to the Immunization Registry and the national health architecture.

The SCHIEx technology platform is compliant with national, open standards for electronic information exchange and has the flexibility and scalability needed to expand its service portfolio. Future capabilities include additional public health services such as a retrievable Immunization Certificates, syndromic surveillance, and electronic lab reporting; enhancements to SCHIEx DIRECT secure messaging to include interstate connectivity and lab order entry and result delivery; automated alerts; statewide Provider Directory; Patient Portal, and Reporting and Analytics tools. The SCHIEx governance authority will oversee the development of new services and related policy requirements.

JOIN IN! Connecting to SCHIEx Q&A Sessions
What: Informal Discussion of Technical and Policy Questions Related to SCHIEx Onboarding. "Office Hours" Conference Call Format
When: Every other Tuesday at 11:00 A.M. EST
(Email schiexinfo@ors.sc.gov to add your name to the meeting notice)

SCHIEx Early Adopter Program Extended
All providers are eligible to receive free SCHIEx services through September 30, 2013 as part of the SCHIEx Early Adopter Program. Select this link for more information and to enroll: SCHIEx Early Adopter Enrollment Application

Let’s Get Connected!

Visit our Website: www.SCHIEx.org or Email: schiexinfo@ors.sc.gov