



HEALTH INFORMATION SECURITY & PRIVACY TOOLKIT

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(insert State) launches virtual physician toolkit, encourages health information exchange

(Insert city, state) -- A federal initiative aims to remove the barriers to participation in electronic health information exchange (HIE) by providing physicians with the tools they need to get connected.

The Health Information Security & Privacy Toolkit, launched earlier this year in eight pilot states, addresses safe, private and secure HIE for providers. **(Insert state)** joins Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Wyoming in the ongoing effort.

HIE is defined as the electronic movement of health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.

The Web-based toolkit, found at www.Secure4Health.org, provides information on electronic HIE as well as tools and resources to help physicians get connected. In addition, physicians can earn continuing medical education credits while learning more about HIE.

“As a long-time advocate, I know health information technology has the potential to offer real-time information at the point of care and greater privacy and security protections,” said David C. Kibbe, MD, one of two national physician champions for the initiative. Dr. Kibbe serves as senior advisor for the American Academy of Family Physicians’ Center for Health Information Technology.

The Health Information Security & Privacy Toolkit is the result of work completed by the Health Information Security & Privacy Collaboration (HISPC), established in 2006 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The collaboration, comprised of 42 states and territories, aims to effectively address issues pertinent to electronic health information exchanges through multi-state collaboration.

The goals of the Health Information Security & Privacy Toolkit are to:

- Introduce physicians to the benefits of electronic health information exchange;
- Motivate providers to understand the advantages of electronic HIE adoption for their patients and practices;
- Identify the steps to HIE implementation; and
- Encourage HIE adoption.

Kentucky Lt. Governor Daniel Mongiardo, a practicing surgeon and proponent of secure HIE and electronic health records, also serves as a physician champion for the project. He joins Dr. Kibbe in encouraging physicians, especially those in rural areas, to engage in HIE.

“Not only is the information private and secure, but it will also help improve the delivery of healthcare services,” said Dr. Mongiardo. “By making health information available to doctors electronically, anywhere, medical errors and costs can be reduced. It is one way to help improve the U.S. healthcare system.”

The ultimate goal is to create an education and outreach toolkit for providers nationwide.

For more information, visit www.Secure4Health.org.

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