

To:

EHR| HIE Interoperability Workgroup Members and Other Interested Parties

Subject:

Exemplar HIE Governance Entities Program Provider Directory project calls for pilot participants

In accordance with one of the target areas of interest identified by ONC, the IWG is inviting participation from members and other interested parties to be part of a group of Provider Directory pilots. The goal of the pilots will be to test the HPD+ directory standards and data model developed by the S&I Framework and incorporated into the IWG Direct Exchange specifications. Pilot participants will work in teams or small groups to test and discuss:

- Querying of provider directories to identify the Direct endpoint of a provider (to support HISP to HISP exchange) including appropriate collaboration with the ONC Modular Specification for Provider Directory team
- Explore and pilot different operational models for the federation of directories across HISPs such as:
 - Each HIE/EHR maintains a list of all relevant Provider Directories and uses that list to determine which Provider Directory to query for a specific endpoint,
 - Establishing a Provider Directory gateway to identify the appropriate directory to query and then collating results,
 - Provider Directories maintain a list of all other Provider Directories and with each query they determine if they are able to answer the query and/or which other Provider Directories should participate in the query response,
 - The Provider Directories have an internal replication and federation mechanism (like DNS or LDAP) and use this to ensure that each directory can answer the query for all participating Provider Directories

Pilot activities will take place over a six-month period, beginning with a kick-off webinar in June for all of the pilot participants. Project plans will be created for each pilot and the pilot teams will be asked to participate in monthly webinar group meetings to be held from July-December 2013, where best practices and lessons being learned will be discussed between teams. In addition to providing real-world improvements to the ability for health care providers to discover another provider's Direct address across HISPs, the work of the pilots will result in an updated implementation guide for the Provider Directory standards to be produced for approval by the IWG in early 2014.

We are ideally looking for participants who are ready to pair up for HISP-to-HISP Provider Directory queries and we would like these to be actual production or near-production environments. In order to determine the current status, we ask that for responses from vendors you include information about and contacts for the health information exchange community in which your product is being utilized. For the state IWG members, these pilots can be either statewide or regional provider directory deployment initiatives. In all cases, use of the IWG's HPD+ technical specifications is preferred and we anticipate that deployments would be using systems that will be

Attachment A

Provider Directory Pilots Invitation

participating in the IWG-Healthway conformance testing and certification program being operationalized later this year. Close collaboration with the S&I Framework, the ONC Modular Specifications Initiative, the ONC Governance Forum and Healthway, as well as with other organizations testing similar Provider Directory connectivity will be essential elements of this project.

More information on the ONC Exemplar HIE Governance Entities grant supporting this project can be found at <http://www.healthit.gov/policy-researchers-implementers/exemplar-hie-governance-entities-program>. Questions can be directed to John Donnelly at jtdonnelly@intepro.biz or Carol Robinson at carol@raaconsult.com.

EHR/HIE Interoperability Workgroup (IWG)

Exemplar HIE Governance Entity Program Provider Directory Pilot Project Participation Interest Form

Thank you for your interest in participating in the IWG Exemplar HIE Governance Entities Provider Directory pilot grant project. Please complete the information below and return to admin@interopwg.org

Provider Directory Pilot

Name of Health Information Service Provider _____

State-run _____ Privately-run _____ Other _____

Name of Vendor for Direct/Provider Directory services _____

Operational Provider Directory? Yes _____ Not yet (when?) _____

Number of Organizations Listed in Provider Directory _____

Number of Individuals Listed in Provider Directory _____

Are you currently supporting HISP-to-HISP Direct exchange? _____

Contact Information for Provider Directory Pilot

Primary contact person _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Secondary contact person _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Other details: