Beacon Community Program℠

Awardee of The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology

The Beacon Community Program goals include building and strengthening a health information technology infrastructure; improving health outcomes, care quality, and cost efficiencies; and spearheading innovations to achieve better health and health care.

Central Indiana Beacon Community

Overview of the Central Indiana Beacon Community

The Central Indiana Beacon Community Program is spearheaded by the Indiana Health Information Exchange, Inc. (IHIE), one of the oldest and largest health information exchange organizations in the country. Through the Beacon Community program, IHIE is identifying new and innovative ways to use technology to support better collection and use of data, health systems improvement, and targeted health care interventions that can improve the health of the community

Currently, through its successful *DOCS4DOCS® Service,* IHIE sends secure health information — lab results, radiology reports, and medication and treatment histories — to doctors, hospitals, and other care providers where and when this information is needed for patient care. Additionally, the Indiana Network for Patient Care (INPC) merges individual patient health information from multiple sources into one single, virtual patient medical record, and uses this combined data to help stakeholders better understand how the local health system is performing and where there are opportunities for improvement.

In collaboration with multiple private health insurers in Indiana, IHIE has built a preventive health and chronic disease management program on this platform, called *Quality Health First®,* that gives accurate and timely data reports to providers to support them in delivering more personalized, efficient, and high-quality care for their patients. For example, the system allows providers to track when patients are due for screenings like mammograms or follow-up care for diabetes and heart disease.

IHIE, through the Central Indiana Beacon Community Program, is building on its strong track record in the Greater Indianapolis region to address cost and quality gaps that can significantly improve the health of the greater Indianapolis population and help other communities identify new ways of leveraging technology for health system improvement.

Goal of the Program

IHIE is both expanding its services to new community providers across a wider geographic area and deepening its current capabilities to deliver improved services that support providers in helping patients prevent and manage chronic disease and improve the overall health of the population. As a result of the Beacon Program, it is serving a broader area that includes the Indiana cities of Anderson, Bloomington, Carmel, Columbus, Fishers, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Logansport, Marion, New Castle, Noblesville, Plainfield, and Richmond. And it is deepening its

existing offerings by developing not only new data tools, but also new targeted interventions that will help physicians and patients use these data to deliver better results. The Beacon community is focused on concrete measures, including:

- Increase the proportion of patients with diabetes whose blood sugar and cholesterol are under control
- Reduce hospital admissions and emergency room (ER) visits for patients with conditions that could have been avoided through better access to or higher quality of outpatient care
- Reduce redundant imaging which can often be performed because providers are unaware of, or unable to access the results of, previous clinically equivalent exams
- Increase screening for cancers of the colon, rectum, and cervix

Using Health Information Technology to Make a Difference
As a Beacon Community, IHIE leverages its existing programs to connect to, access, and capture more clinical data — especially patient information from doctors' offices. Expansion of the capabilities of the *Quality Health First* program, like adding new disease and wellness measures and functionality, as well as expansion of its service area to include 46 counties that would together cover 43 percent of Indiana's population, is a focal point of the Beacon program. *Quality Health First* is empowering more providers with data and accompanying quality improvement support to transform their practices to improve the quality and efficiency of care. IHIE, together with its partner organizations, is helping to improve health and health care costs by:

- Enrolling more providers in its services and programs; engaging more community partners; improving electronic interfaces, getting more patient data from doctors' offices; and creating a secure, interactive website to allow for provider data entry and transmission. In year one, more than 1,000 physicians have been enrolled.
- Partnering with physicians participating in *Quality Health First* to translate information found in quality reports to help inform on-the-ground quality improvement and process redesign initiatives.
- Developing an electronic home monitoring system for more than 1,500 patients with selected chronic conditions to ensure they receive high-quality care *outside* the hospital.
- Evaluating and sharing care management and medication adherence best practices with health care provider groups to ensure quality and efficient management of high-risk patients.

IHIE is also committed to supporting the meaningful use of EHRs for at least 60 percent of all primary care providers practicing within the Beacon region by 2013. To support this effort, IHIE is working closely with Purdue's Indiana Health Information Technology Extension Center (I-HITECH), the Regional Extension Center funded by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

A Team Approach
The IHIE is a nonprofit coalition made up of five hospital systems, the nation's largest health insurer, employers, doctors, and public health officials, along with other economic development, community, and business organizations. Its chief partners are the Regenstrief Institute, the Indiana University School of Medicine, and BioCrossroads. IHIE is also working with health information exchange leaders in the state to ensure that providers across Indiana are able to exchange information electronically.

Improvements for Patients and the Community
While strengthening and expanding this infrastructure, IHIE and its partners have set an ambitious agenda which will lead to critically important improvements for patients and their caregivers.

Once in place, the technology and processes for improving care in Indiana can be used to improve care for individuals with other chronic conditions and in other parts of the state and nation. IHIE is working closely with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology — and 16 other Beacon Communities — to broadly share the expertise and lessons of a long history of health information technology innovation.