



Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society
Fourth Quarter 2010

The Health Information Exchange (HIE) Managing the Tsunami of Change ...

by Mark Norris, Executive Director, NEO HealthConnect

Although the United States is the world leader in health care spending, the nation's clinicians lack access to comprehensive information about their patients at the point of care- information that can help them enhance safety, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Health Information Exchanges (HIEs), will become a powerful vehicle for improving patient health and quality of care by enabling the secure exchange of patient data among all stakeholders.

HIEs are challenged to enable interoperability and secure information transfer among those electronic records already in existence, including:

- * Personal Health Record (PHR) - a record that is patient-centric and patient-controlled, with clinically relevant information populated from administrative and claims system data.
- * Electronic Health Record (EHR) - a digital record compiled from multiple disparate clinical systems, creating a longitudinal and aggregate display of those data for the patient.
- * Electronic Medical Record (EMR) - a digital record found in a unique care setting (e.g., the physician office or the hospital) and containing data specific to that care setting.

Unlike the limitations on eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments, all primary care providers, specialty providers and hospitals will be eligible to participate in NEO HealthConnect's (NEOHC) HIE. In addition, NEOHC plans to connect existing labs, pharmacies, long-term care organizations, health plans and other important organizations involved in a patient's continuity of care. The HIE will also interact with the state Medicaid program, Ohio Department of Health, OHIP and other state and federal agencies to create additional efficiencies.

The MPI is the foundation that all HIE services will be based upon. The MPI must be capable of pulling the data from multiple entities into one longitudinal record. The primary function of the MPI will be to utilize demographic data to identify patients accurately. As the HIE collects updated demographic data through subsequent medical encounters, the MPI validates information to maintain a current profile.

Master Patient Index (MPI) can include Master Provider/Entity Index, Record Locator Services and Trust Enablement . Other functionality that will be included over time will include e-Prescription's, Structured lab results, Patient care summaries, Quality measures, Registry and surveillance data and Integration with EHR vendors.

NEO HealthConnect, in conjunction with it board of directors (which includes 9 facilities across the 4 counties that we serve) is currently evaluating HIE options, including the OHIP solution which is to be announced March 8th. We hope to have partner selection completed by mid spring and the initial phase of the HIE up by as early as next fall. For ongoing information, please sign up for our newsletter by calling the office at 330.599.4595 or visit us online at www.neohc.org <<http://www.neohc.org>> .

You can learn more about the plans for Ohio's HIE by reading Ohio's Road to a Health Information Exchange. Click on the link to be directed to the OHIP HIE White Paper. You also can find it at www.ohiponline.org by clicking on the box at the bottom of the page that says White Paper. OHIP also has an HIE Committee that envisions, plans and implements all facets of the HIE. Please keep in touch and stay tuned.

Bulletin

Editor Michael T. Engle, MD
Managing Editor Karyn Frederick
Editorial Board

Thomas E. Albani, MD Dean R. Ball, DO

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Phone (330) 533-4880 Fax (330) 533-4940.
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CALENDAR

February 23, 2011	6th District Winter Caucus, Salem Hills Golf Club
February 25, 2011	Alliance 7th Annual Champagne Brunch and Fashion Show, Avion on the Water
March 28, 2011	Doctors' Day Blood Drive, Canfield Village Middle School
April 1 - 3	OSMA Annual Meeting, Columbus
April 8, 2011	"A Taste of the World" Wine Taste, Michael Alberini's Restaurant
May 10, 2011	MCMS Annual Meeting Distinguished Physician & 50-Years-in Medicine Awards The Lake Club

Classifieds

MCMS Members - place your classified ad here FREE! Up to 25 words. Call 330-533-4880 for more information. Classified ads of 25 words or less are available to non-members for \$35.

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Don't Get Sucked Up!

Another round of elections has come and gone, and we have “new leadership” in Congress. With this change has come all of the prerequisite puffing of chests and promises to “listen to the people” who elected them. Intertwined with all of this rhetoric is the subtle (and often not so subtle) division of power between the Republicans and Democrats. Republican leadership has called for repeal of the “Job Killing Health Care Bill” and the “Death Panels” it created. Democrats are accusing the Republicans of wanting tax cuts for the “Wealthiest of All Americans” and not caring for the “Millions of Uninsured Children” in our country. Each side wants to make the other the bad guy. It’s certainly easy to sucker most Americans into believing this hype. Unfortunately, we as physicians have let some of this affect us as well.

We as a profession have let the politicians lead the discussion of healthcare reform in our country. We have sat by while poorly-informed representatives and lobbyists from each special interest group guided our President and Congress into passing “health care reform.” This bill is, at best, a flawed beginning to what could be a good bill. At worst, it starts us down a path for healthcare reform that will lead to unintended negative consequences. We may disagree on this issue, but we can all agree that neither side on this debate is fully informed or acting solely in the best interest of the American public.

I’ve been a member of the Mahoning County Medical Society since I first came to this valley seven years ago. I’ve sat on our council for six of those years as well, and am proud to be associated with my fellow council members. You may not know that your council is comprised of members that represent both the far right and the far left on the political spectrum. We meet monthly and generally agree on most council issues. Our “conservative” and “liberal” viewpoints rarely collide in discussion of healthcare-related topics either. I know that if you put our council in charge of writing (or rewriting) a healthcare reform bill, we would agree on 99% of the issues discussed. Physicians KNOW what we need to do to fix healthcare! I’m not here to outline my plan for reform, but rather, point out that physicians across our country are letting themselves get sucked into the politics of medicine. We should be LEADING this discussion in a non-partisan way that speaks directly to our patients and their employers about the honest answers they need. Instead we have the AMA selling its endorsement of a flawed plan in return for a “seat at the table” of ignorant (literally) politicians.

Step up docs! I’ll make a simple challenge to start: The next time a colleague starts talking about this topic, put down your elephant or donkey hat and have an honest discussion with them about what REAL healthcare reform would be all about. I bet you’ll find a lot of common ground!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Engle'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



From the President by Dean R. Ball, DO

My term as *el presidente* is sadly coming to an end. It was a very enjoyable two years and it went very quickly. At least Karyn will have a new president to remind about the due date of the president's message for the bulletin. Well, since it's my last "message" I would like to address a topic that this forum has never addressed.

This is about a very important person that I think most of the members should know about. Unfortunately, as far as I know, neither the President's Message nor this *Bulletin* has ever mentioned it. I know we have Gem of the year, Team Physician of the Year, Distinguished Physician, but my vote for director of the year and overall great person of the year is.... this person with the "y" in her name - Karyn Frederick.

Why the "y" you might ask. First of all I don't think it is her Yugoslavian heritage. I would venture to guess it might stand for *youthful*. Karyn never seems to lack in the energy department and she seems ageless ever since I have known her. I wouldn't have agreed to head up this organization (and I'm sure past presidents would agree) if it wasn't for Karyn.

We seemed to work well and get along from my first day on the council. I'm sure no past presidents or council members would argue that she makes this whole organization run effectively as well as making it a whole lot of fun. Anyone that has been lucky enough to go to the OSMA Annual Meeting could never argue with that! She is also the glue that holds the MCMS together. Presidents have come and gone and Karyn has always been there to break us in. If it's not being a council member for the first time or addressing your first MCMS meeting, it's answering loads of phone calls with some pretty interesting questions. She is extremely hard-working and is very focused in keeping MCMS an important organization to the physicians in the Valley. Not only that, she is always upbeat and is a pleasure to work with. The only thing the council has to worry about is if she ever decides to retire!

Lastly I would like to mention a great yearly event - the American Cancer Society's 5th Annual Cattle Barron's Ball on Saturday March 26 at 7 P.M. at Antone's Banquet Center in Boardman. This is a great fundraising event that I really enjoy. It has great food, entertainment and is more casual than a lot of these type of galas. It has a country western flavor although you can dress in attire of your choice. They have a live and silent auction and this year is honoring fellow Society members Drs. Antoine Chahine, Sudershan Garg, and Eledath Krishnan. All proceeds raised will be used by ACS to save lives by helping people stay well, get well, and find cures. I hope to see a lot of you there. For tickets call the American Cancer Society 1-888-227-6446 ext. 2207.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean R. Ball, DO". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bits 'n' Pieces

GET YOUR BULLETIN VIA EMAIL

If you would like to receive your *Bulletin* via email, please contact the Society office and give us your email address. You can call 330-533-4880, or email mahoningcountymed@zoominternet.net. The *Bulletin* is also posted on our website, www.mahoningmed.org.

DOCBOOK REGISTRATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can now register for the DocBook app for your iPhone on our website, www.mahoningmed.org. There is a button on the homepage that will take you directly to the registration information on the DocBook website. DocBook is a complete directory of MCMS members, contact information and secure messaging right on your phone! You also have access to all local pharmacy phone numbers and locations. For more information, view the demos on the DocBook website.

OFFICE MANAGER GROUP MEETS MONTHLY

A meeting for office and practice managers meets monthly at Shepherd of the Valley in Poland. All office staff personnel are welcome to attend. For more information or to receive notices of the meetings, contact Kate Davis at kdavis@shepherdofthevalley.com, or 330-55-3790.

WINE TASTE, ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The "Taste of the World" wine taste has been scheduled for Friday, April 8, 2011, at Michael Alberini's Restaurant in Boardman. This event, hosted in conjunction with the Alliance, is a fun evening featuring a variety of wines and hors d'oeuvres, vendor display tables and the presentation of the Alliance Gem of the Year Award.

The MCMS Annual Meeting, moved to May this year, has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2011, at The Lake Club in Poland. Thirteen physicians will receive their 50-Years-in-Medicine Awards this year and the 2010 Distinguished Physician will be honored. Nominations for the Distinguished Physician will be requested in March.

Invitations will be issued for both of these events.

KEEP THE SOCIETY INFORMED!

If you are moving, planning to retire, have a new phone number or email address, please let the Society know. Each month we receive many pieces of mail back from the post office with address changes which can become costly. We also get calls from patients trying to find physicians who have moved or left practice. Take a moment to keep us apprised of these changes so we may be more helpful for these callers.



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Shepherd of the Valley Home Health has been named one of the top 25% home health agencies in the country, according to the 2010 HomeCare Elite™. Now in its fifth year, the HomeCare Elite identifies the top 25% of home health agencies in the United States and further highlights the top 100 and top 500 agencies overall. Winners are ranked by an analysis of performance measures in quality outcomes, quality improvement, and financial performance.

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Brent Altenhof, MD

Anesthesiology

Bel Park Anesthesia Assoc.
4135 Boardman Canfield Rd.
Canfield, OH 44406

Medical Education: Medical College of Ohio at Toledo
Internship: St. Vincent Medical Center, Toledo
Residency: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Nicholas Atanasoff, DO

Psychiatry

8090 Market Street
Boardman, OH 44512

Medical Education: Kansas Univ. College of Osteopathic
Medicine, Kansas City, MO

Steven D'Sa, MD

Anesthesiology

Bel Park Anesthesia Assoc.
4135 Boardman Canfield Rd.
Canfield, OH 44406

Medical Education: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Internship: Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Residency: Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

Antoine El-Hayek, MD

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Advanced Women's Care
1111 Boardman Canfield Rd.
Boardman, OH 44512

Medical Education: Lebanese University School of Medicine,
Beirut, Lebanon
Internship: St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown
Residency: St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown

Shokat Fatteh, MD

Anatomic/Clinical Pathology

Northside Medical Center
500 Gypsy Lane
Youngstown, OH 44504

Medical Education: MS University of Baroda, India

Richard Jackson, MD

Anesthesiology

Associates in Anesthesiology
3622 Belmont Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Nagaraj Kotekal, MD

Anesthesiology

Associates in Anesthesiology
3622 Belmont Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: Rampure Medical College, India

Christine Marzich, MD

Cytopathology

St. Elizabeth Health Center
1044 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44504

Medical Education: NEOUCOM, Rootstown, OH

Madeline Miller, MD

Anesthesiology

Associates in Anesthesiology
3622 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: University of Tennessee, Memphis, TN

Jacqueline Parkins, DO

Anesthesiology

Associates in Anesthesiology
3622 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: Ohio University College of Osteopathic
Medicine, Athens, OH

Mark Peckman, DO

Anesthesiology

Associates in Anesthesiology
3622 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: Kansas Univ. College of Osteopathic
Medicine, Kansas City, MO

NEW MEMBERS

Gregory Roush, MD

Anatomical/Clinical Pathology

Pathology Consultants, Inc.
1044 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44504

Medical Education: NEOUCOM

Louis Salib, MD

Anesthesiology

Associates in Anesthesiology
3622 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: University of Cairo, Egypt

Gary Segall, MD

Anatomic/Clinical Pathology

Pathology Consultants
500 Gypsy Lane
Youngstown, OH 44504

Medical Education: Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

Yuel D. Tom, MD

Anatomic/Clinical Pathology

Pathology Consultants
500 Gypsy Lane
Youngstown, OH 44504

Medical Education: University of Arizona College of Medicine

Marc Uram, MD

Anesthesiology

Associates in Anesthesiology
3622 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: Hahnemann University School of
Medicine, Philadelphia, PA

Tara D. Winchester, DO

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Advanced Women's Care
1111 Boardman Canfield Rd.
Boardman, OH 44512

Medical Education: West Virginia School of Osteopathic
Medicine, Lewisburg, WV

Internship: St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown
Residency: St. Elizabeth Health Center, Youngstown

In Memoriam

Simon Basile, MD

July 20, 1931 ~ January 13, 2011

William T. Martin, MD

January 2, 1928 ~ January 21, 2011

Delegates, Alternates, Council and Foundation Trustees Chosen for 2011

The following members were elected by acclamation
to these positions:

President - Thomas Albani, MD

President-Elect - Sean T. McGrath, MD

Delegate to the OSMA - Dean Ball, DO, Lyn
Yakubov, MD - two year terms, and Sean T. McGrath,
MD - one year unexpired term of Dr. Constantine
Economus

Alternate Delegate to the OSMA - Raymond
Duffett, MD and Thomas Traikoff, DO - two year
terms, and Charles Crans, MD and Thomas Albani,
MD - one year unexpired terms of Drs. McGrath and
Yakubov.

Council at Large - Michael Obeng, MD and
Meredith Konya, MD

Important Information from Your Regional Extension Center

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has announced that beginning in 2012, eligible professionals who are not successful electronic prescribers may be subject to a -1% penalty. We wanted to make sure that you understand that there are many different and cost effective options available to you. This legislation will impact all independent practitioners (except Pediatricians) who do not comply, in the form of a 1% penalty from Medicare reimbursements over the entire year of 2012. This is a big deal!

For purposes of determining which eligible professionals are subject to the payment adjustment in 2012, CMS will analyze claims data from January 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011 to determine if the eligible professional has submitted at least 10 electronic prescriptions during the first six months of calendar year 2011. In other words, as a provider, you must submit at least 10 prescriptions electronically before June 30 2011, or you will be subject to a Medicare reimbursement reduction of 1% for 2012.

Many of you are not currently using an EMR or eRx system, and might wonder what you can do. There are several options available to you, ranging in price from free to inexpensive. The options we found include:

<u>Free Product</u>	<u>Low-Cost Product</u>
Allscripts Basic offered through National ePrescribing Patient Safety Initiative (NEPSI) www.nationalerx.com	Diamond eRx Offered by eHealth Made Easy www.ehealthmadeeasy.com Cost: \$29.00/month
eDoctor, Inc. www.edoctorinc.com	
Practice Fusion e-Prescribing http://www.practicefusion.com/pages/ePrescribing.html	

Please follow the attached link for the entire text of the CMS announcement: <https://www.cms.gov/ERxIncentive/Downloads/2011eRxIncentiveProgramUpdatefor2012PaymentAdjustment.pdf>

I would ask that you do two things immediately. First, begin to explore the options for your practice. If you have not begun the process of EMR selection, **use a free or low cost product**, as an interim solution until you are ready to explore your EMR options. If you have an EMR and are currently e Prescribing, you are probably in good shape. Second, and most important, please tell your peers. This penalty applies to all independent medical providers, of all specialties, with the exception of Pediatricians (who do not bill Medicare).

Our outreach through email is limited to those practices who have signed up for NEOHC REC services. We do not have contact information nor resources to reach out to all providers, but this potential reimbursement penalty affects all Medicare providers. This is where we need your help. Our goal is to leave no one behind. Please, tell your office staff and forward this e mail to your colleagues.

Call the office at any time, with any questions.

Mark Norris
Executive Director
NEO HealthConnect, Inc.
Office 330.599.4595
www.neohc.org

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT OFFERS SPECIAL PRICING

MCMS has recently secured an agreement with Shred-it to offer members a 20% discount on document destruction. Contact Shawn Martin at 216-288-7886 or email at shawn.martin@shredit.com for pricing.



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MEDICAL RECORD COPYING CHARGES INCREASE

Ohio law sets limits on the amounts that all health-care providers and medical record companies may charge for copies of medical records. See O.R.C. §3701.741. The total costs for copies and all services related to those copies cannot exceed the sum of the following:

If the request is made by the patient or the patient's personal representative (as defined by Ohio Revised Code 3701.74), total costs for copies and all services related to those copies **shall not exceed** the sum of the following:

With respect to data recorded on paper, the following amounts:

- Two dollars and eighty-eight cents (\$2.88) per page for the first ten pages;
- Sixty cents (60¢) per page for pages eleven through fifty;
- Twenty-four cents (24¢) per page for pages fifty-one and higher;
- The actual cost of any related postage incurred by the health care provider or medical records company.

With respect to data recorded other than on paper such as copies of X-rays, EKG strips, etc.:

- One dollar and ninety-seven cents (\$1.97) per page
- Postage

If a person other than the patient or the patient's personal representative makes the request (such as a request by an "authorized person"), total costs for copies and all services related to those copies shall not exceed the sum of the following:

- An initial fee of seventeen dollars and seventy cents (\$17.70), which shall compensate for the records search;

With respect to data recorded on paper, the following amounts:

- One dollar and seventeen cents (\$1.17) per page for the first ten pages;
- Sixty cents (60¢) per page for pages eleven through fifty;
- Twenty-four cents (24¢) per page for pages fifty-one and higher;
- The actual cost of any related postage incurred by the health care provider or medical records company.

With respect to data recorded other than on paper:

- One dollar and ninety-seven cents (\$1.97) per page
- Postage

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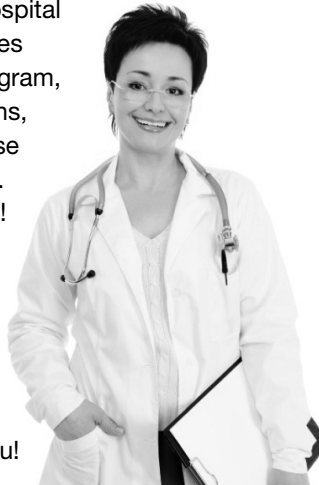
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COPYING CHARGES INCREASE

Continued from Page 10

These maximum charges are in effect as of January 31, 2011 and remain in effect through December 31, 2011. The maximum charges will be annually adjusted (increased or decreased) by the Ohio Director of Health to reflect the average percentage of increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index. The adjusted amounts will be posted on The Ohio Department of Health's Website. (www.odh.ohio.gov)

Editor's Note: MCMS gets calls every day from patients asking if a doctor can charge for records. The answer is "yes" and they are given the guidelines. It is suggested that you keep this information handy so that you are charging the correct amount for copying of records.

Mahoning County Medical Society

565 E. Main Street, Suite 220
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