

Emergency Department (ED) Linking Project Information Paper

Executive Summary

The ED Linking Project is a project to design and implement a secure, rapid-response health information exchange (HIE) system that provides primarily Milwaukee County emergency department clinicians on-site, on-demand patient medical history for use in treatment. The project is funded by a \$3 million Medicaid Transformation Grant (MTG) and dollars and/or resources from the five Milwaukee Health Care Systems and Microsoft, Inc. When fully operational in early 2009 as planned, the ED Linking system will mark the launch of the State's first scalable Regional Health Information Network (RHIN). This project will positively impact up to 200,000 full-benefit Medicaid and 30,000 GAMP members receiving health care in Milwaukee.

What is the ED Linking Project?

The ED Linking Project is being built to be a one-stop, health-information search network that will be accessible at workstations at Milwaukee County's 10 ED's and at one Milwaukee Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The ED Linking HIE system will aggregate a patient's clinically relevant Medicaid medical claims history data and real-time admission, discharge, and transfer (ADT) information from the five hospital systems of Milwaukee County transmitted to the exchange upon the patient registration in the ED or FQHC. Initially Medicaid is providing 24 months of historical data to the Wisconsin Health Information Exchange, the non-profit entity implementing and managing the exchange. This data will be updated weekly and monthly. Three public health authorities, including the Division of Public Health, will also have access to the ED Linking system for bio-surveillance purposes. To understand the impact of the ED Linking project on the Medicaid program, Dr. Patricia Brennan and her team from the University of Wisconsin-Madison will evaluate the impact to Medicaid costs.

Who's involved in the project?

The Department of Health and Family Services, the Wisconsin Health Information Exchange, the Division of Public Health, the Milwaukee Health Department, Milwaukee County GAMP, the University of Wisconsin—Madison, the five Milwaukee Health Care systems (Aurora Health Care, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Columbia-St. Mary's, Froedtert, and Wheaton Franciscan) and their 10 hospital ED's, the 16th Street Community Health Center, Microsoft, Inc., and SysLogic, Inc. are the main participants in the project.

What are the project's goals and objectives?

The primary goal of the ED Linking project is to provide patient health information where currently there often is none or very little available to help ED and Community Health Center clinicians in Milwaukee County provide patients quality, safe, and cost-effective health care.

Key project milestones and status

- Project kick-off on 6/21/07—Achieved
- Sign off by three pilot hospitals on participant agreement by 9/30/07—Achieved
- Provision of 24-month historical Medicaid data to system by 10/15/07—Achieved
- Go live of the two pilot emergency departments (EDs), Aurora Sinai and Columbia-St Mary's, with ADT data on 3/31/08—Achieved
- Go live of the remaining pilot ED, Wheaton Franciscan-St Francis with ADT data by 4/4/08—Achieved
- Go live of the pilot EDs with all ADT and Medicaid data aggregated by 7/30/08
- Go live of the three public health sites by 7/30/08

Remaining key milestones and target dates

- Seven additional emergency departments live by 3/31/09
- All 10 emergency departments and 1 FQHC live by 4/30/09
- Final UW evaluation report completed and submitted to DHFS by 8/31/09 and to CMS by 9/30/09

Prepared by Denise Webb, 267-6767, 6/10/08