

*Overview of Current Health Information Initiatives in Wisconsin
January 23, 2006*

1. ***Governor Doyle's Executive Order 129***- signed November 2, 2005 and the creation of the eHealth Board.
2. ***Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant*** - awarded December 2005 to DHFS to support the development of Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs). The Foundation's program, Information Links: Connecting Public Health with Health Information Exchanges is designed to accelerate the innovative and effective use of information technology by state and local public health agencies. Twenty-one grants of up to \$100,000 were awarded to state and local health departments and public health institutes for 12-month projects. The grantees will work with health care providers to improve the use of regional data sharing networks or health information exchanges.
3. ***Wisconsin Health Information Exchange (WHIE)*** - a membership organization of health care entities to create, govern and continuously improve regional exchange of health information. The organization received a \$100,000 grant for start-up costs from the national Connecting Communities for Better Health. Their initial focus is on high-value information identified by their members: patient medications and vaccinations, allergies, diagnoses and problem lists, identities of other professionals working with the patients and diagnostic test results. The organization has adopted interim by-laws and membership fees for 2006 and will elect their first Board of Directors at their annual meeting January 24, 2006 in Milwaukee.
4. ***Madison Patient Safety Collaborative*** –formed to provide structure for area health care providers to work collaboratively to develop, share and implement patient safety solutions, is now exploring the level of interest among their members to create a RHIO for south central Wisconsin. This group was identified in the DHFS grant application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as one possible organization to develop another Wisconsin RHIO.
5. ***Wisconsin Health Information Organization (WHIO)*** - established in August 2005 to create the state's largest warehouse of information on the cost and outcome of health care provided by hospitals and doctors. This is a voluntary partnership - founding organizations are Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee Business Foundation on Health, Humana, the Alliance, United Healthcare of Wisconsin, WEA Trust, WPS Health Insurance, Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality and the Wisconsin Medical Society. Health information from the member organizations will be aggregated, analyzed and reported to help members improve their services and to support purchasing for value.
6. ***Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative*** – is actively working on health information initiatives including providing a shared infrastructure for their members, a technology management program, and organizing a shared electronic health record task force to determine the feasibility of collaborating on a common integrated hospital information system. This cooperative is

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owned and operated by twenty-nine rural acute, general medical-surgical hospitals. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality awarded a planning grant to the organization in October 2004 to begin work on behalf of a collaborative of 19 health care organizations, both rural and urban, to improve the quality of care and efficiency of service delivery by leveraging health information technology.

7. ***Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality*** – a group of multi-specialty physician groups, hospitals, health plans, employers and labor organizations from geographically diverse areas of the state that have come together to develop and share best practices and quality outcomes. The collaborative was founded in 2003 on the principle that by focusing on improving quality, better care and more rational costs will result.
8. ***Wisconsin Hospital Association*** – representing more than 100 Wisconsin hospitals, this association publishes health care quality and safety data for the benefit of the public. Key initiatives include their *CheckPoint* and *PricePoint* reports and participation in the national 100,000 Lives Campaign. The association has joined forces with the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality to jointly sponsor a web site to present information to the public about health care quality.
9. ***Assembly Bill 907*** – this legislation was introduced January 2006 with bipartisan support in both the Assembly and the Senate. The bill authorizes the Departments of Employee Trust Funds and Health and Family Services to contract with a data organization to collect, analyze and publicly report certain health care claims information from insurers and administrators and to develop and maintain a central data repository. The purpose is to improve the information about health care quality and cost that is available to providers of care, to purchasers of care and to consumers. The legislation also suspends the current Physician Office Visit reporting system and sunsets the Board on Health Care Information and the Independent Review Board which have advised DHFS on health information matters.
10. ***Wisconsin Medicaid new ER query system*** – the Medicaid program is making an internet query available to ER physicians so that they can track ER use by Medicaid recipients who have visited the ER at least three times in the past 12 months. The query will be phased in beginning with Milwaukee ERs early in 2006 and then expanded statewide.
11. ***Public Health Information Network (PHIN)*** - an integrated information systems web portal operated by DHFS with funding and technical support from CDC. The attachment provides more detail about the components of this system and other health information assets in the public domain.