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[dhhs.nv.gov/HIT.htm](http://dhhs.nv.gov/HIT.htm)

## FACT SHEET

### Health Information Technology (Health IT) and Health Information Exchange (HIE) in Nevada

**Health Information Technology  
(Health IT or HIT)**

Information systems specific to the health care domain, i.e., the computer hardware and software, as well as the procedures and personnel, designed, operated and maintained to collect, record, process, analyze, store, retrieve and display information.

**Health Information Exchange  
(HIE)**

*Verb:* The secure electronic movement of health-related information between and among disparate organizations in accordance with nationally-recognized standards.

*Noun:* An organization that provides services which enable the secure electronic movement of health-related information between and among unaffiliated organizations.

**Purpose of Health IT and HIE**

Total electronic management of health-related information and its secure exchange among and between disparate organizations is expected to enhance care coordination, improve care quality, decrease medical errors, increase administrative efficiencies, and ultimately reduce health care costs.

**ARRA HITECH Act of 2009**

Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) was enacted as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA):

- Authorized funding to support more rapid implementation of Health Information Technology (Health IT) and Health Information Exchange (HIE).
- Expanded the role of states in fostering a technical infrastructure to facilitate HIE and the adoption of certified Electronic Health Records systems (EHRs/EMRs).
- Authorized Medicare and Medicaid financial incentives for Eligible Providers who adopt certified EHRs/EMRs and met Meaningful Use (MU) requirements.
- Enacted additional HIPAA provisions that broadened the scope of privacy and security protections, increased potential legal liability for non-compliance, and authorized state-level enforcement by state attorneys general.

**FACT SHEET**  
**Health IT and HIE**  
(continued)

**State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program (NV State Health IT Coordinator and Program Manager: Lynn O'Mara)**

4-year awards to states and territories for the development and advancement of a statewide HIE infrastructure across health care systems, providers and payers that enables intra-state, inter-state and nationwide HIE by January 1, 2014. Nevada's DHHS was awarded a \$6,133,426 cooperative agreement. Program priorities are e-Prescribing (eRx), receipt of structured lab data results, and sharing patient care summaries across unaffiliated organizations.

**State Health IT Plan**

Nevada's State Health Information Technology Strategic and Operational Plan (State Health IT Plan) is a State HIE Cooperative Agreement program requirement. The State Health IT Plan, available online in its entirety at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Hit.htm>, outlines how Nevada's State HIE program funds are being used toward the establishment of Nevada's statewide system for the electronic exchange of health information.

**State HIE Legislation: NRS 439.581-595**

Senate Bill 43, passed by the Nevada Legislature in 2011, is HIE-enabling legislation that provides the framework for meeting the requirements of Nevada's State HIE Cooperative Agreement and federally-approved State Health IT Plan. The DHHS Director is authorized to promulgate necessary regulations.

**Nevada Health Information Exchange (NHIE)**

Pursuant to NRS 439.588, the Nevada Health Information Exchange (NHIE) non-profit corporation was established September 11, 2012. The NHIE is the designated governing entity that will assist DHHS with oversight and governance of the statewide HIE system.

In addition to providing oversight and governance, the NHIE will provide core HIE services that enhance continuity of care across organizational boundaries (both within Nevada and across state borders) to assure patient data is at the place and point of care when needed, to support clinical decision processes, and to enhance patient care coordination. More information is available online at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Hit.htm>.

**NHIE Board of Directors**

Pursuant to NRS 439.588, the seven-member NHIE Board of Directors was established in May 2012, and have been meeting regularly since August 2012. In addition to providing oversight of NHIE operations, this Board is the designated governing body that will assist DHHS with oversight and governance of the statewide HIE system. The NHIE Board meets under Open Meeting Law, and members represent physicians, hospitals, health plans, public health, pharmacies, consumers, and Medicaid. Standing committees include additional stakeholders. For more information visit: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Hit.htm>.

**Nevada DIRECT (NV DIRECT)**

The first phase of HIE implementation deploys Nevada DIRECT (NV DIRECT) services as an HIE proof of concept and grant requirement. Available Spring 2013, NV DIRECT does NOT require users to purchase additional software or have an EHR/EMR, and supports meeting Meaningful Use requirements. The only requirement is a connection to the Internet. NV DIRECT uses a secure clinical messaging protocol and acts much like email, allowing providers to type messages, attach patient summaries and images, and send the information to known DIRECT recipients using nationally-recognized secure transaction standards. Facilitated by DHHS and Orion Health, more information is available online at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/HIT.htm>.