



# The PHDSC Quarterly Standard E-Newsletter

Promoting Standards Through Partnerships

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**We are proud to welcome our new members:**

El Paso County  
Department of Health

Atlas Public Health

Docsite

## **PHDSC 2008 Annual Business Meeting Hyattsville MD, November 12-13, 2008**

**Convened in Partnership with  
the National Center for Health Statistics**

Members of the Consortium gathered together at Hyattsville, MD in November at the 2008 PHDSC Annual Business Meeting to discuss the Consortium's activities developing the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) such as :

- ***Health Information Technology Standard Development & Harmonization***
- ***Privacy and Security of Health Information Exchanges***
- ***Electronic Health Information Exchanges***
- ***Professional Education in Public Health Informatics***

Over fifty participants from federal, state and local public health agencies, public health professional associations and health information technology vendors shared their experience in working on standardization of public health information systems.

During the second day of the meeting, participants discussed ***The Future of Public Health Registries*** emphasizing the need for making public health systems an integral part of regional health information exchanges with clinical information systems under a Nationwide Health Information Network.

	<p>Visit <a href="http://www.phdsc.org/about/events.asp">http://www.phdsc.org/about/events.asp</a> for the meeting agenda, list of participants and presentations.</p>
<p><b><u>Become a Member</u></b></p> <p>Learn about the <a href="#">benefits of joining</a> and <a href="#">become a member</a></p>	<p><b>PHDSC Privacy, Security &amp; Data Exchange Committee Proudly Presents New Work Products</b></p> <p>The Privacy, Security, and Data Exchange Committee (PSDE) recently completed two reports:</p> <p><b>Privacy and Security in Public Health Information Exchanges: Assessing Variations, Solutions and Implementation Plans from States.</b> This report investigates privacy and security solutions and best practices for public health information exchanges, based on extensive privacy and security work done by the <i>Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC)</i>, a national privacy and security project involving 33 states and Puerto Rico. In Phase I, the HISPC project conducted one of the most comprehensive reviews of state-level privacy and security policies, practices, laws and variations that impact interoperable health information exchanges. HISPC gathered state solutions and implementation plans, as well as inter-state and national-level recommendations to address identified issues. The PHDSC Report uses HISPC detailed documentation on public health scenarios to identify best practices and provide recommendations for public health agencies, addressing privacy and security issues at the state, multi-state and national levels. The Report also describes opportunities and areas of new/future work for the Consortium’s Privacy, Security, and Data Exchange Committee.</p> <p><b>Health Information Privacy in State Public Health Agencies: A Review of Past, Present and Future Privacy-Related Issues and Priorities Affecting Public Health Practice.</b> This report documents the interview responses of a select group of states, presenting an in-depth analysis of the impact of privacy regulations on public health and public health agencies. The report addresses past, current and emerging privacy-related issues that state and local public health agencies face. These issues increase in relevance as more health information is captured, maintained and exchanged electronically.</p>
	<p><b>Standards for Public Health Data Exchange</b></p>

<p><b>Share Your Successes &amp; Lessons Learned</b> with the Public Health Community on Health Information Technology Adoption in the next PHDSC Standard E-Newsletter Issue.</p> <p>Send your stories to Anna Orlova at <a href="mailto:aorlova@jhsphe.edu">aorlova@jhsphe.edu</a> for the next issue of our Newsletter by March 1, 2009</p>	<p>The Consortium, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, has been working under the contract from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to engage the public health community in collaboration with the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems vendors at the <a href="#">Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE)</a>. The IHE is a collaborative of healthcare professional associations and EHR vendors. This project is built upon HRSA-funded PHDSC projects on the development of the functional requirements specifications (Functional Requirement Analysis Documents (FRADs)) for bi-directional electronic communication between clinicians and public health practitioners.</p> <p>In the IHE 2009 development cycle, we will be working with EHR vendors at the Integrating Healthcare Enterprise's Committees to develop the following technical documents:</p> <p><u>IHE Information Infrastructure Committee</u> <b>White Paper on Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)</b> – to explore implications of SOA approach for integration of public health information systems within a public health agency and a regional health information exchange.</p> <p><u>IHE Quality, Research &amp; Public Health Committee</u> <b>White Paper on Standardized Queries in Diabetes Care Management</b> – to explore an approach of using standardized questions, to be generated based on the clinical care guidelines, to specify data content for health information exchanges.</p> <p><b>Content Profile for Newborn Screening</b> – to specify data content for electronic information exchanges between clinicians, laboratories and public health genetic testing and hearing programs. We anticipate conducting this work in collaboration with the IHE Laboratory Committee and in partnership with the Robert Debre Hospital, Paris, France.</p> <p>This work will help inform the development of the IHE Integration Profiles (technical specifications) to be used by EHR vendors in building interoperable public health and clinical information systems.</p>
<p>Visit our website at <a href="http://www.phdsc.org">www.phdsc.org</a></p> <p>PHDSC launched a new version of its website in July</p>	<p><b>Developing a Business Case: Role of Public Health in National Health Information Technology Standardization</b></p> <p>With the support from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)</p>

2008. This new web-site includes not only a significant upgrade to the look-and-feel of the site, but will allow us to add substantial new features in the future. We hope the new website more fully describes our activities, members, and interests.

**Let us know what you think!**

Contact the Communications and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs with your comments:

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Cooperative Agreement “Assure Health Information Technology Standards for Public Health” the Consortium conducted a meeting of public health information technology stakeholders on November 14, 2008. Representatives from local and state public health agencies and information technology vendors shared their experiences and perspectives on the public health challenges participating in the health information technology (HIT) standardization process.

Based on the input from discussion, the Consortium will be working with the meeting participants on developing a Business Case for public health participation in HIT standardization. The Business Case document will:

- Define the public health role in the HIT standardization process and HIT standards adoption;
- Help build an understanding across the public health community of this role and of the need for participation of local and state public health agencies in the national HIT standardization entities; and
- Describe the model for public health participation in the HIT standardization entities with a common unified voice.

### National Health IT News

**NHIN Cooperative Joint Working Group will be established.** Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) Board approved the establishment of the *NHIN Cooperative Joint Working Group* to accommodate the need for close collaboration between HITSP and the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) teams responsible for both specifications / evergreening and production / operations / implementation. This will ensure that HITSP and NHIN are coordinated to maximize the effectiveness of both activities.

**Secretary Leavitt Announces New Principles & Tools to Protect Privacy and Encourage More Effective Use of Patient Information to Improve Care.** In a keynote address to the Nationwide Health Information Network Forum, December 15-16 in Washington DC, HHS Secretary Leavitt announced key privacy principles and a toolkit to guide efforts to harness the potential of new technology and more effective data analysis, while protecting privacy. For additional information, visit [www.hhs.gov/healthit/privacy/](http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/privacy/)

**Accelerating Progress: Using Health Information Technology (HIT) and Electronic Health Information Exchange (HIE) to Improve Care.** In the inaugural report, the State Alliance for e-Health examines the challenges states face in implementing HIT and HIE, including provider concerns about implementation costs, variations in technical standards for interoperability and consumer concerns about data privacy and security. The report is meant to spur continued innovation in states to make the vision of an interconnected, efficient, quality-based health care system – and ultimately a healthier American public – a reality. To download

the full report, go to <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0809EHEALTHREPORT.PDF>

2008 has proven a busy and exciting year for the  
Public Health Data Standards Consortium!

*The Consortium's Staff Wishes our Members and Friends  
Wonderful Holidays*

*and*

*A Happy New Year 2009!*