

Medical Society of NJ's 3rd Annual HIT/EMR Open House - November 4, 2010
Summary of the Commissioner's powerpoint delivered

Although enormous advancements in medicine have been made in the past two decades, the nation and the state of New Jersey are lagging in the adoption of Health Information Technology (HIT). In New Jersey, we have opportunities for advancement in this area. National studies suggest that fewer than 30 percent of private-practice physicians have Electronic Health Records and New Jersey's rate is probably not much higher than 20 percent.

New Jersey is making progress in this area. Our state was awarded \$11.4 million in federal funds to work with four regional Health Information Exchanges (HIE). New Jersey has adopted a decentralized approach, allowing regional and community HIEs to develop and then connect them through a state-wide health information network (NJHIN). The statewide HIE (NJHIN), which will serve as a backbone to all exchanges and will improve patient outcomes by making real time data accessible to health care providers across our state.

The integration of this data will drive improvement in outcomes by allowing physicians, in real time, to see disparate patient data that is stored in other facilities. Health Information Technology serves as the critical link—to evidence-based medicine, to empowering patients and to improving care coordination. Electronic health records—and its elevated twin, the promise of health-information exchange—allow us to treat the patient more comprehensively, and help us achieve that “continuum of care” that we talk about.

The Department, under the leadership of the HIT Coordinator Colleen Woods will continue to champion the adoption of HIT among all health care providers to help improve health outcomes across the state.