

NMSIIS Data Exchange Launch a Success

The New Mexico Statewide Immunization Information System (NMSIIS) and ABQ Health Partners achieved the electronic transfer of immunization information in December using the state's Health Information Exchange (HIE) network. Known as the New Mexico Health Information Collaborative (NMHIC), the HIE network is staffed and operated by LCF Research.

Electronic reporting of immunization records to the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) is a significant accomplishment and is an important part of the capabilities that the HIE network is designed to perform.

Robert White, MD MPH, Medical Informatics Director for ABQ Health Partners, is pleased to be the first large practice in the state to achieve this goal. "We are delighted that the DOH is now receiving our information about patient immunizations through secure electronic connections, and that we no longer have to manually enter this information in the state website."

Both Presbyterian Healthcare Services and the University of New Mexico plan to electronically transfer immunization information through the HIE in early 2012.

Two Emergency Department NMHIC Pilots Launch in 2012

The UNMH Emergency Department and the Lovelace Medical Center Emergency Department will launch pilot programs in early 2012 using the NMHIC Clinician Portal. The pilot will allow emergency department clinicians to electronically access patient information securely from multiple locations (across the HIE) to view through the NMHIC portal. This will help the hospitals demonstrate Meaningful Use of their respective EHR systems and qualify for federal incentives.

Direct Secure Messaging Available Soon

The NMHIC Direct Secure Messaging (DSM) Web Portal will be available soon to New Mexico clinicians. DSM allows registered users to exchange email securely within the portal and electronically transfer patient information from one EHR system to another EHR system with minimal data entry.

DSM will go live in early 2012, following successful results and feedback from NM HITREC participants currently testing the system. Registered DSM users who share patient information through the secure webmail portal will be one step closer to Meaningful Use of their EHR system.

NM HITREC Participating Hospital Achieves Meaningful Use

In November, Sierra Vista Hospital was honored as the first NM HITREC-participating hospital to attest to Meaningful Use under Medicare. "This great accomplishment could not have been done without the efforts of several staff, CPSI (EHR vendor), and NM HITREC", said **Domenica Rush**, Sierra Vista Hospital CEO. "This endeavor started some two years ago with great tenacity from the championship committee and all involved."

Limited Lung Function: Impact of Reduced Peak Expiratory Flow on Outcomes in Older Adults

This study, conducted by LCF Researchers **Melissa Roberts, MS**, and **Douglas Mapel, MD**, examined whether the peak expiratory flow (PEF) test is a valid measure of health status in older adults using PEF test and patient self-reported survey data from the 2006 and 2008 Health and Retirement Study®. Persons with low PEF (<80% of predicted) were more likely to be hospitalized within the next two years and to have a <50% chance of surviving 10 or more years. The findings demonstrate that PEF is a useful measure of physical functioning and health status in older adults with or without COPD, and can be an independent predictor of increased healthcare utilization. A manuscript of the study has been accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

Pharmacoeconomics Capabilities Expand

Melissa Roberts, an experienced LCF health outcomes researcher, applies economic-based evaluation methods to pharmaceutical products and services and how they relate to decisions impacting patient care and health-related quality of life.

In addition to her duties as a senior research associate at LCF Research, she is completing her dissertation in the Pharmacoeconomic, Epidemiology, and Pharmaceutical Policy and Outcomes Research program at the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy.

LCF Research earns Accreditation with Commendation for its CME program

LCF Research has earned Accreditation with Commendation for its Continuing Medical Education (CME) program from the New Mexico Medical Society. NMMS awards accreditation to CME providers that demonstrate compliance with the criteria set by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.