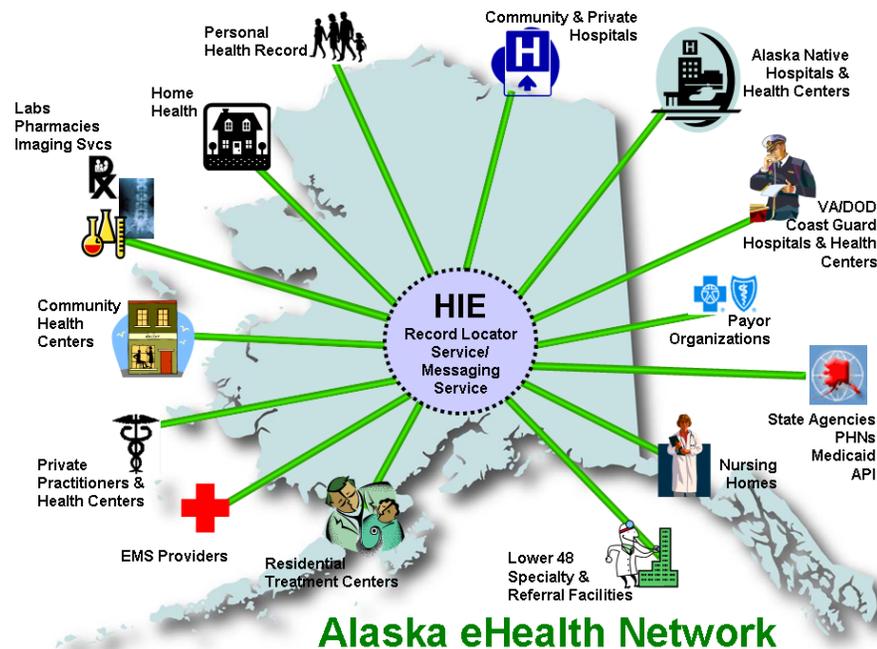




FACT SHEET

- Overview** The Alaska eHealth Network (AeHN) is a carefully planned solution to our national health care problem of high spending and low returns on healthcare. AeHN was established as a 501(c)(3) in 2008 to create a statewide, standards- based electronic health network which will allow individual Alaskans to have their own personal health record and to authorize their health care providers to exchange electronic medical records in a timely, secure manner.
- Mission** **To improve the safety, cost effectiveness, and quality of healthcare in Alaska** through the promotion and facilitation of widespread implementation and use of secure and confidential electronic clinical information systems, including electronic health records and clinical data exchange capabilities.
- Partners** The Alaska e-Health Network to date has been a collaborative partnership effort of the Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership (including the Veterans Administration, the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard), the Alaska Primary Care Association, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Homes Association, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Premera Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the University of Alaska, AARP Alaska, the State Department of Health and Social Services, and the Alaska EHR Alliance (private physicians).
- Services** When complete, the Alaska e-Health Network will have the capability to provide any Alaskan with a secure Personal Health Record, including authorization for their health care providers on the network to have access to electronic records required for continuity of care, such as hospitalization records, prescription information, vaccinations, allergies, imaging records, laboratory results, etc. The Network will support telemedicine services, the transfer of high resolution images for patient care, video conferencing, and Voice over Internet applications for providers.



Sustainability

AeHN partners are determined to ensure the long-term viability and success of the network when completed. Several models have been considered, including provider/user fees and payor contributions. Networks with the highest degree of success have secured long-term support from their state governments (e.g. Arizona, California, New York, Delaware). The annual operating cost of the Alaska e-Health Network, when fully deployed and used by the majority of state residents, is estimated at \$6 million, or approximately \$10 per year per resident.

Alaska's Need for Coordinated Health Information Exchange

Alaska health providers are going electronic: Many Alaskan health care agencies and providers have begun the expensive and gradual transformation of their medical record systems from paper to electronic (commonly referred to as Electronic Health Records or EHRs). Alaska medical providers are expected to invest well over \$100 million in these systems over the next five years. But EHRs alone do not solve the health care problem. It takes all the EHRs sharing data through a statewide network to create change in health care.

Alaska health providers need a private, secure 'network of networks': The parallel development of a private statewide Alaska e-Health Network will unify and secure these separate electronic health record networks, connecting health providers and consumers to critical medical information for timely and quality patient care. Such Health Information Exchange (HIE) networks are being developed in many lower 48 states and regions with support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Communications Commission.

Where they have been developed successfully, the benefits of HIE networks include;

- improved patient access to medical care,
- reduction in duplicate and unnecessary testing and procedures,
- improved patient safety,
- reduced health agency administrative costs,
- greater patient and provider satisfaction, and
- enhanced rapid response to public health emergencies.

National studies demonstrate annual cost savings from the use of Electronic Health Records and HIE networks at approximately 5% of health care expenditures; this equates to an annual savings of \$250 million based on Alaska's \$5 billion health care expenditures, or an annual savings of \$10-14 million based on the State of Alaska's \$250 million Medicaid program.

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