

Welcome to the latest edition of *TeleNews* from the Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

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HEALTH 3.0: KANSAS HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2009

**July 14 & 15, 2009
Hilton Airport Hotel
Wichita, KS**

Emerging Innovations for Access and Integration of Quality Health Care

Don't miss this event! Expert presentations and focused, interactive roundtable sessions created specifically for Kansas health professionals. This conference, on the status of health information technology use in Kansas, is designed for:

- Practice and clinic administrators
- IT management or administrators
- Physicians, RNs, and other clinical personnel
- County public health personnel
- EMS Personnel
- Strategic Planners at all levels

... and others in the health community seeking better utilization

of resources, quality improvement, or service enhancements through effective use of available technological resources.

Sponsored by:

- KU Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth
- Kan-ed
- Midwest Alliance for Telehealth & Technology Resources

NHIN Forum Provides Summary of National HIT Developments



This past month, the 5th Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) Forum was held in Washington DC, for all who had an interest or investment in the development of interoperable health information systems in the US. Sponsored by the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN), the Forum was intended to showcase the work of the NHIN, including:

- Defining specifications intended to facilitate data exchange
- Presenting results from actual trials using the intended specifications
- Facilitating information exchange and security through the development of relationships between key participants
- Detailing how NHIN activity applies to future systems developments

Due to the importance of NHIN developments in the future evolution of HIT, KUCTT staff has monitored events during and following the Forum. Included in this issue of TeleNews is a summary of remarks made by HHS Secretary Leavitt at the Forum. Watch for more Forum activity reported in future issues.

HHS Secretary Suggests Greater Security and Increased Public Experience Needed for HIT Successes



HHS Secretary
Michael O. Leavitt

(Editor's Note: It was recently announced that Secretary Leavitt, who was appointed by President Bush in 2004, will not continue as head of HHS under the new presidential administration. However, the points made in the outgoing Secretary's recent speech reflect the opinions of a man uniquely positioned to observe and evaluate national HIT developments.)

In his recent speech at the 5th NHIN Forum, Secretary of Health & Human Services (HHS) Michael O. Leavitt announced a list of key HIT privacy principles, and a "toolkit" to help further the development of health information programs while protecting patient privacy.

Included in Secretary Leavitt's list of privacy principles:

- Individual Access - The public's needs include a uniform format that is accessible and readable
- Corrections - People should keep their own health records, and have the means to check and correct any details of their health history kept in health records belonging to others
- Openness and Transparency - Public must be kept fully informed of the status of all health records that relate to them, and educated on the nature, use, and accessibility of such records
- Individual Choices - Public should be able to make choices regarding who will or will not share their health records
- Limitations - Limits must be placed on organizational collection of health records
- Data Integrity - All health data must be fully protected with establishment of

safeguards and accountability

Also, according to Secretary Leavitt, the public's acceptance of technology in health care, much like the public's current acceptance of technology in the banking industry, will come about only through transparency in industry practices and ongoing public participation.

Additional information regarding all current HHS activity on the subject of health information technology is available at www.hhs.gov/healthit/.

KUCTT Educates Telehealth Community on the Ethical & Regulatory Aspects of Privacy



Privacy and security, as noted in the remarks of HHS Secretary Leavitt, are paramount issues in all aspects of transmitting patient data. But they are not issues that are limited to the future. Two months prior to Secretary Leavitt's remarks, Dr. Eve-Lynn Nelson, the Assistant Director of KUCTT, presented a webinar to members of the Center for Telehealth & E-Health Law, a leading industry resource for telehealth public policy analysis, entitled *Privacy and Confidentiality in Telehealth — Professional ethical requirements, HIPAA, and related state requirements*.

KUCTT is one of the oldest providers of telemedicine and telehealth programs in the United States. KUCTT provides over 1,000 consults each year. This webinar presents an excellent step-by-step guide to privacy requirements when establishing a new telemedicine program or clinical treatment.

For a limited time, this webinar is available from CTeL at <http://services.choruscall.com/links/ctel081027.html>. If unable to locate the webinar at that site, you may contact CTeL at <http://www.ctel.org> for detailed information on telehealth privacy issues. You may also contact Dr. Nelson at enelson2@kumc.edu, or call the KUCTT office at 913-588-2226.

Kansas Jumps Ahead in Technology



It was in 2004 that a Presidential directive established the goal for most health care providers in the U.S. to have access to systems of electronic health records (EHRs) by the year 2014, thus sparking active discussions at the local level regarding the use of technology among health care providers. Around this time, the term *Nationwide Health Information Network* (NHIN) started to be used more frequently.

In 2007, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) initiated the Rural Healthcare Pilot Program designed to support "the creation of a nationwide broadband network dedicated to health care" (per FCC press release 11/13/07). Fortunately, the state of Kansas already HAD a statewide health information network in place - known as Kan-ed - for telemedicine purposes that could also support EHR data exchange and connect to the NHIN. However, more hospitals in Kansas needed to be connected to Kan-ed. Therefore, KUCTT and Kan-ed jointly applied for FCC funding and were awarded a multi-year authorization to assist in linking ADDITIONAL health care facilities to the Kansas network, and enhance the network's privacy and security features.

Health care facilities that wish to get connected to Kan-ed under the FCC program are eligible to receive high-speed connectivity that will be funded by the FCC. It is hoped that receiving the latest in high-speed, private access to health care information and services will enable the Kansas medical community to jump ahead in its health care quality and delivery needs.

Contact Kan-ed or KUCTT with any questions you may have about how network connectivity in Kansas can benefit your clinic or organization.

Gretchen Patch – the Telehealth Elf



The giving of gifts to those in need is part of what makes the Christmas holiday so special. However, locating enough beef jerky for an entire company of American soldiers serving in Afghanistan this past Christmas was a dilemma that would make even Santa pause.



KUCTT
Project Manager
Gretchen Patch

As is tradition in the External Affairs department at KUMC each December (which, at the time, included KUCTT), the entire department shares the joy of the season by "adopting" a family, group or organization. 2008 found our tradition meeting the holiday wishes of the C Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry-Combat Team, U.S. Army, in Afghanistan.

The list of items the soldiers wanted for Christmas was heartbreakingly simple, mostly everyday items we take for granted, like ... beef jerky. Feeling very capable, the KUCTT staff accepted the mission of locating a large quantity of this much-needed item.

Hard at work on technology tasks, the donations deadline drew near before we were able to locate a source for as large a quantity of beef jerky as would be needed by an entire company of soldiers. But "Never Fear," we said, as we text messaged all over town seeking a solution.

Then out of her office came our own Gretchen Patch, with her Sam's Club card held high. A swift dash down the street in her Corolla (no reindeer, but with four tiny cylinders), and suddenly our offices were awash with the sight (and scent) of beef jerky.

KUCTT came through again. External Affairs fulfilled its mission, and our adopted soldiers' wishes were granted. Even today, we fondly look back on that season and think that maybe sometimes it IS best to just put a Patch on the problem.

Our thanks to Gretchen Patch, our Telehealth Elf.

HIT Acronyms



Health Information Technology

The following acronyms are a partial list of acronyms used by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), Department of Health & Human Services (HHS).

- OAT** - Office for Advancement of Telehealth
- OCR** - Office for Civil Rights (The OCR is part of HHS.)
- OIG** - Office of the Inspector General (The OIG is also part of HHS.)
- OMB** - Office of Management and Budget
- ONC** - Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
- OPM** - Office of Personnel Management
- PAHPA** - Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Act
- PHIN** - Public Health Information Network
- PHR** - Personal Health Record
- PHS Corps** - Public Health Service Corps
- RFI** - Request for Information
- RFP** - Request for Proposal
- RHCPP** - Rural Health Care Pilot Program
- RHIO** - Regional Health Information Organization
- ROI** - Return on Investment
- RPMS** - Resource and Patient Management System
- RTI** - Research Triangle Institute International
- SAMHSA** - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- SDO** - Standards Development Organizations
- SPL** - Structured Product Labeling
- SSA** - Social Security Administration
- TNGP** - Telehealth Network Grant Program
- UMLS** - Unified Medical Language System
- UNII** - Unique Ingredient Identifiers
- USHIK** - United States Health Information Knowledgebase
- VA** - Department of Veteran Affairs

VHA - Veterans Health Administration (within the VA)

XML - Extensible Markup Language

This the the last in our series of HIT acronyms. This list has proven helpful to us when reading federal documents in the past. We hope you find them useful as well. Fo a complete list of all HIT acronyms included in our series, feel free to contact Gordon Alloway, Project Manager, Grants, for KUCTT at galloway@kumc.edu or 913-588-2257.

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