

Preparing to Implement HITECH

A New Report from the State Alliance For E-Health

Ree Sailors

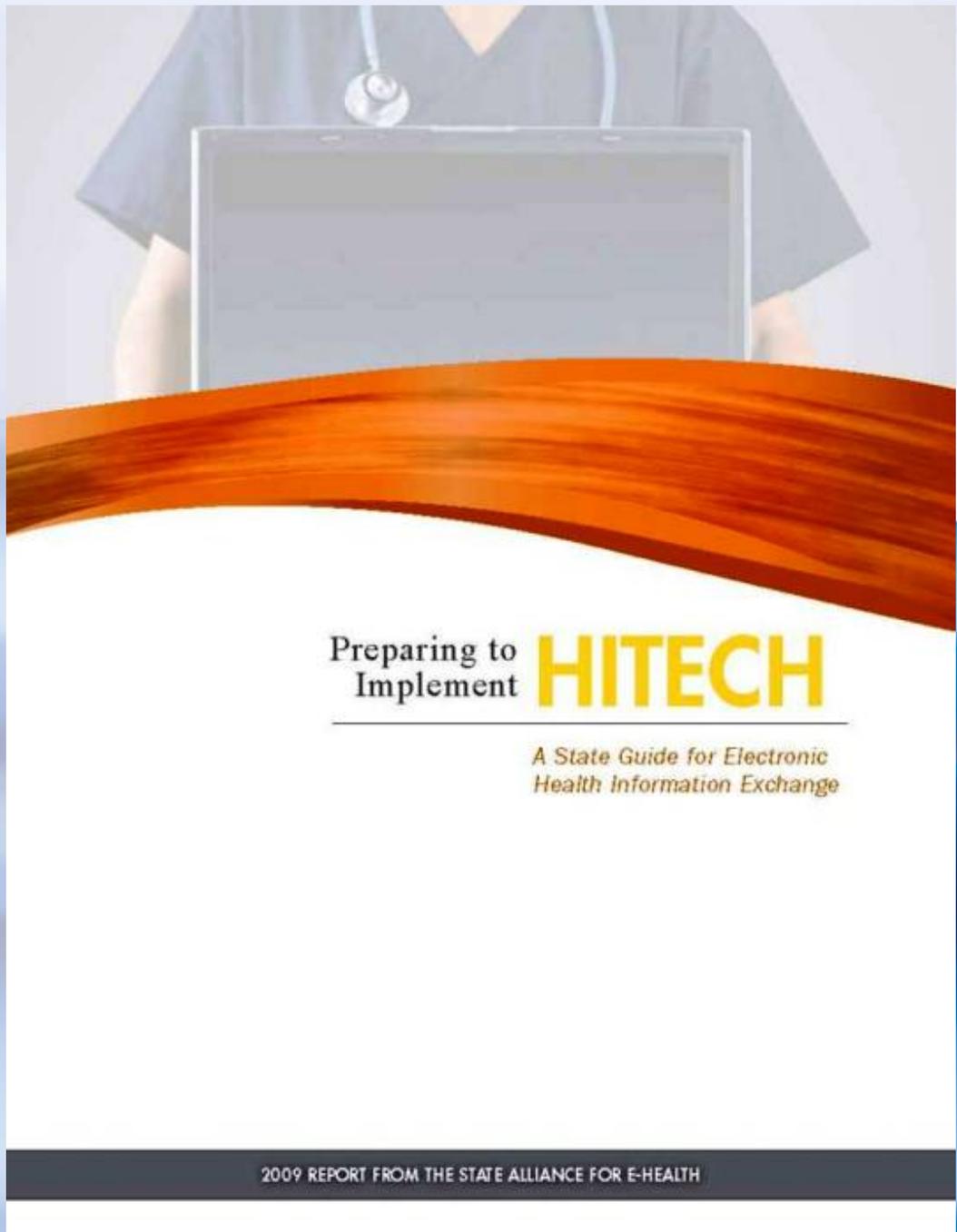
Kentucky e-Health

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NGA Center for
BEST PRACTICES



Preparing to Implement **HITECH**

*A State Guide for Electronic
Health Information Exchange*

2009 REPORT FROM THE STATE ALLIANCE FOR E-HEALTH

State Roles—Explicit and Implied

- Develop a plan and facilitate implementation
- Implement “meaningful use” payments under Medicaid
- Ensure the privacy and security of citizens’ electronic health information no matter what entity or entities operate the exchange
- Assure providers, patients, and insurers that HIE will operate in a sustainable, dependable, and efficient manner through fair and equitable charges placed on participants.

Actions to Implementation

- Prepare or update the state roadmap for HIE adoption;
- Engage stakeholders;
- Establish a state leadership office;
- Prepare state agencies to participate;
- Implement privacy strategies and reforms;
- Determine the HIE business model;
- Create a communications strategy; and
- Establish opportunities for health IT training and education

Challenges for States

- How strong a role to play?
- How to accommodate existing systems?
- How many exchanges in a state?
- Determining cost allocation
- Facilitating cooperation among competing entities
- Demonstrating benefits for providers, patients



Preparing or Updating the Roadmap for HIE Adoption

- State Plans are prerequisite to implementation; they will need to meet grant guidance
- Many states with plans were pre-HITECH and must be updated at least
- Plans may need to incorporate new governance structures, oversight strategies
- Governors accountable for ARRA spending

Engaging Stakeholders

- States will play a crucial role bringing key actors to the table
- Often only entity that can pull everyone together, particularly competitors
- Both convener and participant
- Stakeholders both within and outside of government

Establishing State Leadership Office

- Coordination within government
- Coordination with private sector
- Coordination with other HITECH & ARRA areas: broadband, Tribes, Community Health Centers, School-based Health Centers
- Oversight of State Designated Entities
- Integration with Larger Health Care Reform Efforts

Preparing State Agencies to Participate

- Medicaid Agency
 - Implement “meaningful use”
 - Determine eligibility for incentive payments and adoption reimbursements
- Public Health
 - Disease surveillance
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Population Health
- Possible role in Loan Program

Implementing Privacy Strategies and Reforms

- Ensuring the privacy and security of citizens' electronic health information no matter what entity or entities operate the exchange(s)
- Building public trust and confidence
- Tackling issues related to interstate transfers of health information
- Training for new State AG responsibilities related to enforcement of HIPAA provisions

Determining an HIE Operational & Business Model—Questions

- What entity runs the day-to-day operation of the exchange(s)?
- How will coordination between/among multiple exchanges be accomplished?
- What rules govern the day-to-day operations of the exchange and what entity enforces those rules?
- Who is responsible for sustainable operation of the exchange(s), including allocation of costs and collection of revenue?

Determining an HIE Operational & Business Model—Options

- Government-led electronic health information exchange,
- Electronic HIE as a public utility with strong state oversight, and
- Private Sector-Led Electronic HIE with Government Collaboration.

Creating a Communications Strategy

- **Consumers**
 - Host town-hall meetings, webcasts, and other forums
 - seek input
 - Develop culturally and linguistically targeted materials
 - Tailor materials for special populations i.e., foster care, mental health, and special needs
 - Encourage and support the use of technologies—such as e-prescribing and PHRs—that build public experience in using EHRs.
- **Providers**
 - Make the case how health IT and HIE will improve their practice and offer benefits

Create Opportunities for Health IT Training & Education

- Encourage state medical schools, nursing schools, and schools of public health to include appropriate health IT curricula (financial support may be available)
- Examine opportunities to host regional extension centers
- Incorporate training into statewide plans