

RHIO Overview

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RHIO Definition

An organization formed to support the development and operation of a health information exchange (HIE) system in a community.



Key Issues

1. Business Case
2. Sustainability
3. Participation
4. Governance
5. Technology
6. Community Physician Participation



Business Case

- Financial Benefits
- Initial Funding
- Sustainability



Sustainability

- Must be addressed at the inception of the program
- Easiest to accomplish when there is a variety of community participation
- Key to convincing participants to invest in the program



Participation

- Community Physicians
- Hospitals, Health Centers
- Health Departments
- Employers
- Community Health Services Organizations



Governance

- Cross section of participants
- Voting rights
- Data sharing agreement
- Accountability for accuracy and participation
- Fees



Technology

- Open flexible architecture
- Integrated and interfaced access for physician systems
- Components
 - Messaging system, repository, or hybrid
 - Enterprise master patient index (EMPI)
 - Communications network
 - Data center
 - Integration system



Community Physician Participation

- Key to the success of any program
- Requires a lot of support!
 - EHR System selection
 - EHR System implementation
 - Support
- Key to sustainability



The Future of RHIOs

- The key to the future of RHIOs is sustainability
- Technology is not the core issue
- Community physician participation is critical
- Exchanging information among community systems is not as important as developing a strong local system