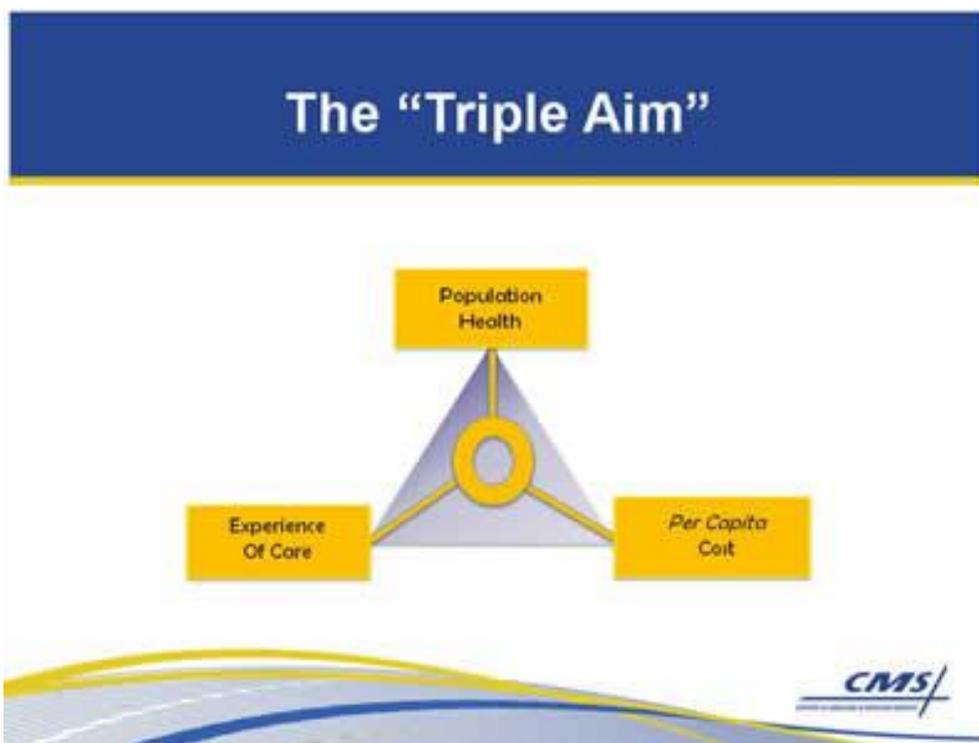


Maine's HIT/HIE Vision, Goals, and Objectives: 2015 and Beyond

This document provides a high level background description of Maine's State-wide Health Information Technology (HIT) program to date, and lays the foundation for a path forward.

I. Background

In 2010, the Federal HITECH Act established programs for achieving Health Information Technology (HIT) goals. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology was formed along with the framework for state HIT initiatives. The HITECH vision embraces the Triple Aim of improving health care outcomes, quality, and costs.



The structure of the programs established by the HITECH Act recognizes a federal/state partnership to build the HIT vision and to plan and implement that vision:

A Nation in which the health and well-being of individuals and communities are improved by health information technology.

The State of Maine strives to continually improve the health of its residents. In 2010, The ONC approved the Maine Statewide Health Information Exchange Strategic and Operational Plans: *A Strategy to Create an Infrastructure that Preserves and Improves the Health of Maine People.*

II. Maine's Vision—Statewide Strategy and MaineCare Meaningful Use Program

Maine's Office of the State Coordinator for HIT, housed in the Department of Health and Human Services leads the State's HIT/HIE efforts and MaineCare's Meaningful Use Program for health care providers.

1. *Statewide HIT Strategy*

The State has aligned its strategic HIT vision and goals with those of the Office of the National Coordinator through the use of a collaborative multi-stakeholder process to adopt a vision for the State's Office of the State Coordinator for HIT, anchored in providing or facilitating a system of person-centered, integrated, efficient, and evidence-based health care delivery for all Maine citizens:

Preserving and improving the health of Maine people requires a transformed patient centered health system that uses highly secure, integrated electronic health information systems to advance access, safety, quality, and cost efficiency in the care of individual patients and populations.

To advance this vision, the State convened a broad group of stakeholders –The HIT Steering Committee (HITSC) – to consistently hear from stakeholders and adjust the State's HIT Plan according to the needs of the state and communities. The HITSC uses three goals and eight objectives to guide input into implementation activities:

GOAL 1: By 2015, all people in Maine will be cared for by healthcare providers who share electronic health and health related information securely within a connected healthcare system using standards-based technologies that promote high quality individual and population health.

GOAL 2: By 2015, all people in Maine will have access to a flexible comprehensive consumer centric life-long health record – “One Person One Record.”

GOAL 3: Electronic healthcare information will be used by the State Coordinator for Health Information Technology to develop appropriate public and private policies

throughout the healthcare system to promote evidenced based, clinically effective, and efficient care for all people.

Maine HIT Strategic Objectives

1. **Enable the transformation:** In adherence to federal guidelines for meaningful use of HIT, by 2015, all providers in Maine will have an EHR pursuant to National Standards and will be sharing clinical and administrative information through HealthInfoNet, the statewide health information exchange organization, to promote high quality and cost effective healthcare.
2. **Security and Privacy:** All healthcare information shared and stored electronically will adhere to strict privacy, security, and confidentiality requirements as defined by the collaborative work of HealthInfoNet (HIN), the State Government (including the Attorney General) and where possible the guidelines provided through the Office of the National Coordinator for HIT (ONC) and other federally supported projects.
3. **Patient focused health:** By 2015 all people of Maine will have secure electronic access to comprehensive healthcare information and will be assured that if they consent to participate in HIE, their providers will also have comprehensive access to their clinical information to guarantee the most informed decision making at the point of care.
4. **Improve the quality of care:** By 2015, all providers serving individuals and populations in Maine will achieve federal meaningful use guidelines, improve performance, and support care processes on key health system outcomes measures.
5. **Coordination of care:** Beginning in 2010 and phased in through 2015, the statewide health information organization, HealthInfoNet (HIN), will deploy statewide health information exchange services, connecting all providers, payers, laboratories, imaging centers, pharmacies, public agencies and other relevant stakeholders. These services will allow for the appropriate, secure, and private exchange of relevant personal health information to the point of care for all Maine people consenting to participate, assuring that their healthcare is coordinated among all primary care and specialty providers.
6. **Benefit public and population health:** HIE activities in Maine will be aligned at every level possible through the Office of the State Coordinator for HIT (OSC) to assure that the data collected, is used to improve population health. Statewide HIE services are critical for required disease reporting, biosurveillance, public health tracking (immunization etc.), as well as population support functions of the Maine Centers for Disease Control (MECDC).
7. **Promote public private cooperation and collaboration:** All health information technology and exchange activities will be developed and overseen through

structures that promote cooperation and collaboration among all public and private stakeholders, building upon existing partnerships developed throughout the history of HIE in Maine and in recognition of the specific public sector regulatory, accountability and fiscal functions.

8. **Promote efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery:** Recognizing that HIT and HIE are tools, evaluation metrics will be iteratively developed and promulgated across the healthcare system of Maine to assure that HIT tools are used appropriately to the benefit the people of Maine.

2. MaineCare's HIT Vision Aligned with Department Vision

Maine's Director of the Office of the State Coordinator for HIT oversees the MaineCare Meaningful Use Program. The MaineCare MU program is intrinsically linked with the ONC and Maine OSC's vision and goals which serve as a critical foundation for MaineCare's vision for the future of HIT and the EHR Meaningful Use Incentive Program, and the Maine DHHS vision and mission:

Vision: Maine people living safe, healthy, and productive lives

Mission: Provide integrated health and human services to the people of Maine to assist individuals in meeting their needs, while respecting the rights and preferences of the individual and family, within available resources.

Through the HITSC, multiple stakeholder input and in partnership with CMS, the MaineCare Meaningful Use Program vision was framed:

A Medicaid program that employs secure electronic health information technology to provide truly integrated, efficient, and high quality health care to MaineCare Members and to improve health outcomes.

The State's Medicaid State Health Plan Implementation Document for the period of April 2013 through September 30, 2015, incorporates the Meaningful Use vision through the adoption of four goals:

Goal 1. HIT Initiative Integration Benefits Recognizing the needs and benefits that a multi-dimensional approach to HIT affords to improve quality and health outcomes, payment reforms, ensure accurate program costs and efficiencies, and which the HITECH Act and/or Stage 2 and future stages of Meaningful Use (as defined by CMS) promotes and/or requires, the State will institute system improvements and enhance frameworks and governance of HIT programs including provider participation, exchange, and reporting of clinical, claims, and Meaningful Use data.

Goal 2. Privacy and Security Benefits. MaineCare will build public trust and enhance participation in HIT and electronic exchange of protected health information by incorporating privacy and security solutions and appropriate legislation, regulations, and processes in every phase of its development, adoption and use data, including claims and clinical health care data.

Goal 3. Communication, Education and Outreach Benefits. MaineCare will aid in transforming the current health care delivery system into a high performing health information exchange system by establishing and implementing robust communication, education, and outreach plans to promote wide-spread EHR , Meaningful Use, and exchange among MaineCare providers and inform Members about the benefits of health information technology.

Goal 4. Infrastructure and Systems Integration Benefits. The MaineCare MU program will advance the provision of services that are client-centered to improve health outcomes, quality, patient safety, engagement, care coordination, and efficiency and reduce operating costs by eliminating duplication of data costs through the promotion of adoption and Meaningful Use of HIT.

As the MaineCare vision and goals are integral to meeting the State's HIT state-wide Plan, any examination of the success of the OSC efforts over the past years must include the MaineCare MU program under the umbrella of the OSC. As such, the importance of integration of the MU Program with the OSC cannot be understated. Sustaining the achievements of one program must be viewed and incorporated into the context of both programs.

III. Building to the Future

Much significant progress has been made in meeting the federal and State visions and goals. Rapid technology advances and emerging health care initiatives, such as value based purchasing and payment reform have contributed to this progress, and indeed, created new needs and opportunities to meet the Triple Aim. As Maine reaches toward 2015, it is an opportune time and useful exercise to examine the State's original vision, goals, and objectives--where we have been and we will go.

A goal of the OSC is to improve patient care, quality, safety and efficiency by advancing Health Information Technology and HIE across the State—the Triple Aim. To help measure how well a state is performing in meeting the Triple Aim, the ONC established specific objectives and processes for measurement and refinement. Maine will report on these objectives and processes, and as encourage by the ONC, examine other activities and areas that are Maine-specific identified and emerging HIT topics and issues.