

# eHealth Progress Across the States in 2007

Results of a Survey of State Officials

AcademyHealth  
National Health Policy Conference  
State Health Research and Policy  
Interest Group

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## Presentation Is Based on Survey of All Governors & Health Policy Advisors

- Conducted July – November 2007 by the National Governors Association (NGA) and Health Management Associates (HMA), with funding from The Commonwealth Fund
- Purpose was:
  - To identify current eHealth initiatives across the states
  - To highlight eHealth accomplishments, challenges and barriers, and future state directions
  - To provide a benchmark of eHealth activity against which to measure future progress
- Authors: Vernon Smith, Kathleen Gifford, Sandy Kramer, Jennifer Dalton (HMA), Patricia MacTaggart (GWU) and Michelle Warner (NGA)

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## Study Focuses On ...

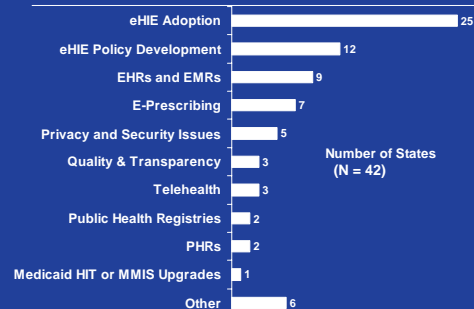
- State eHealth priorities
- Significant eHealth initiatives now underway
- Barriers & obstacles
- Lessons learned

Source: Vernon K. Smith, Kathleen Clifford, Sandy Kramer, Jennifer Dalton, Patricia MacTaggart, Michelle Lim Warner, "eHealth Activities Across the States in 2007: Results of a Survey of State Governments," The Commonwealth Fund, February 2008.

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## Top State eHealth Priorities for Next 2 Years



Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.

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## Most Significant State eHealth Initiatives

- Electronic Health Information Exchange (eHIE) Development and Operation
- Health Information Technology (HIT) Initiatives – Systems and Components
- Quality & Transparency Initiatives
- Privacy & Security Initiatives

Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.

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## eHIE Initiatives Listed as “Most Significant”

- eHIE development was listed most often
  - Total of 40 initiatives
  - Planning & developing policies leading to eHIEs
  - Forming or continuing a committee to study issues
  - Facilitating local eHIEs w/grants & technical support
  - Developing statewide eHIEs
- 25 states reported operational eHIEs
  - Most frequently by Public Health, followed by Medicaid
  - Two states reported eHIEs operational in five areas: Medicaid, state health benefit plans, mental health hospitals, prisons & public health

Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.

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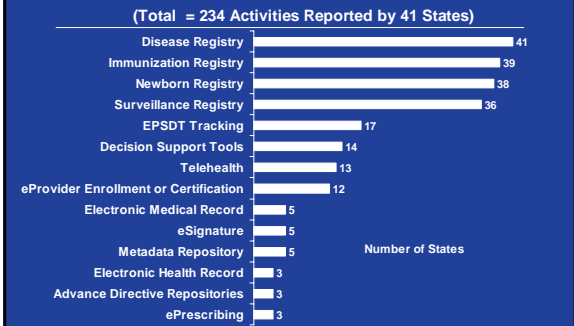
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### HIT Initiatives – Systems & Components Identified as Most Significant by States

E-Prescribing	AR,IL,MA,NH,PA,RI,KY
Electronic Health Records	AR,DC,KS,MN,MO
Electronic Medical Records	FL,HI,NM,OR,RI
Telehealth	HI,NE,NM,OR,WV
Decision Support Tools	ME,MO,IN,VT
Web-Based Tools	AL,MA,UT
Patient Health Records	OR
MMIS Replacement	ND

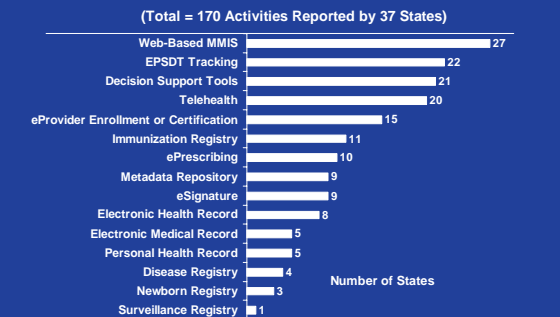
Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.  
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### eHealth Activities Implemented Within Public Health



Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.  
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### eHealth Activities Implemented Within Medicaid



Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.  
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### Quality & Transparency Initiatives Listed As a Significant eHealth Activity

**Alabama:** "Together for Quality" Medicaid System Transformation Grant

**Arkansas:** Medicaid Information Interchange with expanded performance measure sets

**California:** Leveraging improved healthcare outcomes & quality via Medi-Cal payment rates & encouraging public & private sector purchasers to require measurement & reporting of provider performance

**Georgia:** Planned consumer transparency website

**Virginia:** Created Health EDI Network, starting with exchange of administrative data, with a goal to lower costs and "dramatically improve quality of care in Virginia."

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### Privacy and Security Initiatives

- Six states listed privacy and security actions as their most significant eHealth initiatives
- Most states (31 of 42) reported having state privacy laws and other protections in place
- Most significant barriers in privacy and security include:
  - Variation in interpretation of laws around confidentiality and consent
  - HIPAA preemption
  - Technological challenges of securing data and authentication

Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.  
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### Many States Are Working to Make Electronic Health Information Available

- 13 states reported assessing Medicaid enrollee access to computers & the Internet
  - For example in 2006, Oregon found 50% of Medicaid enrollees had Internet access through computers at their private residences or other sites, e.g., public libraries
- 18 states had eHealth education initiatives aimed at culturally & linguistically diverse communities

Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.  
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## Barriers to Accomplishing eHealth Priorities



Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.

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## States Listed Specific Challenges

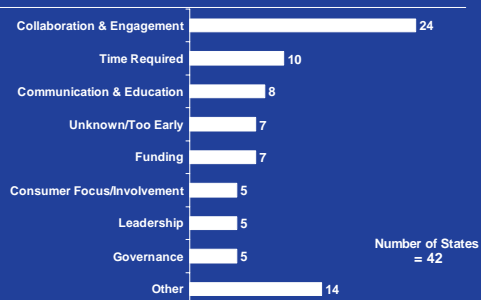
- "Establishing a formal structure & levels of engagement to drive technical implementation"
- "Collaboration among competitive entities"
- "Establishing governance (which includes specific privacy & security) to establish the trust among stakeholders"
- "Linking Medicaid to the larger HIE efforts"
- "Fragmentation of current efforts"
- "Misunderstanding and lack of standard regulations [for] e-prescribing and controlled substances"
- "Coordinating multiple efforts into a statewide strategy while not slowing down individual agency efforts to meet their specific goals."

Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.

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## Lessons Learned From State eHealth Activities



Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.

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## State Voices of Experience: Lessons Learned

- "Proceed slowly – gaining trust & fully exploring policy issues related to privacy & security, access, authorization, authentication"
- "Involve stakeholders early"
- "Use a HIE model that doesn't lock out prospective participants..."
- "You don't need all the answers today to move forward; plan broadly, implement incrementally"
- Provide "strong project management & dedicated resources"
- Provide for "...sustained collaboration & an entity whose business it is to leverage different interests & resources for a common good"

Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.

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## Conclusion

- Virtually all states are engaged in a wide range of eHIE and HIT initiatives
- The challenges facing states and their private sector partners are significant.
- Nevertheless, states believe the payoff will come in improved quality & cost-effectiveness for the healthcare delivery system

Source: The Commonwealth Fund & NGA eHealth Survey, conducted by HMA, 2007.

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