

## HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Adoption and use of electronic health records (EHRs) are still limited.

- ▶ An estimated 28 percent of doctors nationwide currently use EHRs. In California, the leader in EHRs, 37 percent of doctors use them.<sup>1</sup> A recent survey showed that only 1.5 percent of U.S. hospitals have a comprehensive EHR system, while an additional 7.6 percent have a basic system.<sup>2</sup> Studies show total costs for implementing office-based EHRs range from \$25,000 to \$45,000 per physician. Annual costs for operating and maintaining such systems are from \$3,000 to \$9,000 per physician.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides \$19 billion in financial incentives through the Medicare program to encourage physicians and hospitals to adopt and use certified EHRs and authorizes competitive grants to states for loans to providers.<sup>4</sup>



The creation of statewide health information exchanges and regional health information organizations is helping to connect those records.

- ▶ Delaware is widely recognized as the first state to make significant progress in implementing a statewide health information exchange.<sup>5</sup>
- ▶ Many other states are taking a different route, seeking to build statewide networks by incubating regional health information organizations.
- ▶ An estimated 145 of these organizations were formed around the country in recent years. A 2008 survey assessed the progress of 130 of these efforts and found that 42 were operational, 39 were just getting started, and 36 were in the process of implementation. The survey included 18 initiatives that were new since 2007.<sup>6</sup>

Electronic prescribing is a reality in all states but some are doing more than others.

- ▶ As of August 2007, all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., allow physicians and pharmacists to electronically exchange prescriptions. As late as 2004, approximately half the states had laws that were incompatible with e-prescribing.<sup>7</sup>
- ▶ Massachusetts is the number one e-prescribing state in the nation. More than 20 percent of total prescriptions were routed electronically in 2008, twice as many as the number three state of Michigan.<sup>8</sup>
- ▶ An estimated 68 million prescriptions were routed electronically between e-prescribing providers and pharmacists in 2008, up from 29 million in 2007.<sup>9</sup>
- ▶ Despite that growth, it represented only a shift from 2 percent of eligible prescriptions to 4 percent. There were 1.57 billion new prescriptions and renewals eligible for electronic routing in 2008.<sup>9</sup>
- ▶ A program called the National E-Prescribing Patient Safety Initiative makes Web-based e-prescribing available to prescribers for free. More fully functional e-prescribing applications are available from \$500 to \$2,500 per year.<sup>4</sup>

# Health Information Technology Adoption

State	State Ranking for E-Prescribing (2008) <sup>8</sup>	% of Prescriptions Transmitted Electronically (2008) <sup>8</sup>	Number of Health Information Exchange Initiatives <sup>10</sup>	Executive Order from Governor <sup>11</sup>
Alabama	37	2.21%	1	
Alaska	42	1.74%	3	
Arizona	10	5.86%	2	Yes (2005)
Arkansas	45	1.63%	1	
California	28	3.28%	11	Yes (2006, 2007)
Colorado	22	3.73%	4	
Connecticut	8	6.41%	4	
Delaware	5	7.70%	1	
District of Columbia	34	2.75%	1	
Florida	20	3.89%	9	Yes (2004)
Georgia	36	2.21%	3	Yes (2006, 2007)
Hawaii	49	1.04%	1	
Idaho	16	4.33%	1	
Illinois	21	3.79%	4	Yes (2006)
Indiana	27	3.30%	3	Yes (2007)
Iowa	35	2.33%	2	
Kansas	31	2.98%	2	Yes (2004, 2007)
Kentucky	32	2.91%	2	
Louisiana	33	2.84%	3	
Maine	9	5.97%	1	
Maryland	11	5.28%	2	
Massachusetts	1	20.50%	4	
Michigan	3	9.03%	2	
Minnesota	23	3.61%	5	
Mississippi	50	0.72%	1	Yes (2007)
Missouri	19	3.97%	6	Yes (2006, 2007)
Montana	46	1.38%	2	
Nebraska	41	1.76%	1	
Nevada	4	8.89%	0	
New Hampshire	30	3.01%	2	
New Jersey	12	4.76%	0	
New Mexico	43	1.66%	2	
New York	24	3.51%	12	
North Carolina	6	6.43%	4	Yes (1994)
North Dakota	51	0.39%	1	
Ohio	13	4.67%	3	
Oklahoma	38	2.09%	1	
Oregon	15	4.39%	2	
Pennsylvania	7	6.43%	1	
Rhode Island	2	17.27%	2	
South Carolina	48	1.25%	4	
South Dakota	47	1.35%	0	
Tennessee	18	4.02%	5	Yes (2006)
Texas	29	3.17%	8	Yes (2006)
Utah	40	1.77%	0	
Vermont	14	4.64%	2	
Virginia	25	3.49%	1	Yes (2006, 2007)
Washington	17	4.19%	4	Yes (2007)
West Virginia	26	3.43%	2	
Wisconsin	39	1.94%	4	Yes (2005)
Wyoming	44	1.65%	1	

<sup>1</sup> California HealthCare Foundation. "Snapshot: The State of Health Information Technology in California." 2008. Accessed from: <http://www.chcf.org/documents/chronicdisease/HITSnapshot08.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Jha, Dr. Ashish, et al. "Use of Electronic Records in Hospitals." *New England Journal of Medicine* 360 (2009)

<sup>3</sup> eHealth Initiative. "Electronic Prescribing: Becoming Mainstream Practice." June 2008. Accessed from: [http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/assets/Documents/eHI\\_CIMM\\_ePrescribing\\_Report\\_6-10-08\\_FL-NAL.pdf](http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/assets/Documents/eHI_CIMM_ePrescribing_Report_6-10-08_FL-NAL.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> American Medical Association. "American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009: Summary of Major Health Care Provisions." Accessed from: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/advocacy/current-topics-advocacy/hr1-stimulus-summary.shtml>.

<sup>5</sup> Nancy Ferris. "Delaware First With Statewide Health Information Exchange." *Government Health IT*. March 28, 2007. Accessed from: <http://www.govhealthit.com/online/news/98071-1.html>.

<sup>6</sup> eHealth Initiative. "Fifth Annual Survey of Health Information Exchange At the State and Local Levels." September 2008. Accessed from: <http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/assets/Documents/eHI-HIESurveyResultsFinalReport-2008.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> SureScripts. "National Progress Report on E-Prescribing." December 2007. Accessed from: <http://www.surescripts.com/pdf/National-Progress-Report-on-EPrescribing.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> SureScripts. "The Fourth Annual Safe-Rx Awards." 2009. Accessed from: <http://www.surescripts.com/safe-rx-awards.html>.

<sup>9</sup> SureScripts. "National Progress Report on E-Prescribing." 2009 Accessed from: <http://www.surescripts.com/downloads/NPR/national-progress-report.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Telemedical.com. "Regional Health Information Organizations in the United States." Accessed from: <http://www.healthdatamanagement.com/news/EHRs-27999-1.html>.

<sup>11</sup> eHealth Initiative. "Fourth Annual Survey of Health Information Exchange at the State, Regional and Community Levels." Accessed from: [http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/2007HIESurvey/State\\_Policy.asp](http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/2007HIESurvey/State_Policy.asp).