

STATE OF VERMONT  
GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD

**DECISION AND ORDER APPROVING THE  
2020 UPDATE TO THE HIE PLAN AND 2021 VHIE CONNECTIVITY CRITERIA**

In re: 2020 Update to the Health Information )  
Exchange Strategic Plan and 2021 VHIE )  
Connectivity Criteria )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

At a public meeting on November 18, 2020, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) presented the 2020 Update to the Health Information Exchange Strategic Plan (HIE Plan) and Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) presented the 2021 VHIE Connectivity Criteria to the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB or Board). Vermont law requires the HIE Plan be revised annually and comprehensively updated every 5 years. 18 V.S.A. § 9351(a)(1). The GMCB must review and approve the HIE Plan annually “to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to enable the State to achieve the principles expressed in section 9371 of [Title 18].” 18 V.S.A. § 9375(b)(2)(A). In addition, Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL) must “establish criteria for creating or maintaining connectivity to the State’s health information exchange network” and provide those criteria to the Board by March 1 each year. 18 V.S.A. § 9352(i)(2). The Board has reviewed Connectivity Criteria for the coming year in conjunction with its annual review of the HIE Plan since 2018.

Following Board discussion on November 18 and November 25, DVHA resubmitted the HIE Plan with minor changes in four areas: (1) Added a reference to new federal rule on price transparency; (2) Added a note regarding the timing of new claims/clinical data integration efforts; (3) Clarified next steps on integrating social determinants of health data into the VHIE; and (4) Updated the Protocols for Access to Protected Health Information on the VHIE to clarify when a Public Health Authority may access health data. DVHA presented on these changes at the December 2 Board meeting.

At a public meeting on December 2, 2020, Board staff recommended the Board approve the resubmitted HIE Plan as having met the following review criteria: consistency with the requirements of 18 V.S.A. § 9351; consistency with the Principles for Health Care Reform in 18 V.S.A. § 9371; consistency with other relevant legislation; and incorporation of national best practices and expertise as well as feedback from Vermonters. Board staff also recommended that the Board approve the 2021 Connectivity Criteria as having met the following review criteria: alignment with HIE Plan goals; supporting implementation of the HIE Plan and achievement of the State’s health reform goals; and that the proposed Connectivity Criteria are sufficiently clear to be operationalized by VITL, the State of Vermont, and health care provider organizations. Following discussion and public comment, the Board unanimously voted to approve the 2020 Update to the HIE Plan and 2021 VHIE Connectivity Criteria, as presented by DVHA on December 2, 2020, with no conditions.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: January 7, 2021 at Montpelier, Vermont

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s/ Kevin Mullin, Chair )  
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s/ Jessica Holmes )  
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s/ Robin Lunge )  
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s/ Tom Pelham )  
)  
s/ Maureen Usifer )

GREEN MOUNTAIN  
CARE BOARD OF  
VERMONT

Filed: January 7, 2021

Attest: s/ Jean Stetter  
Green Mountain Care Board  
Administrative Services Director

*NOTICE TO READERS: This document is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Board (by email, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, so that any necessary corrections may be made. (Email address: [Janeen.Morrison@vermont.gov](mailto:Janeen.Morrison@vermont.gov))*