

2024 Update to the Health Information Exchange Strategic Plan & 2025 Connectivity Criteria

Vote Process Update

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December 4, 2024

GMCB Oversight of HIE



Review and approve Health Information Exchange Strategic Plan (HIE Plan)

- 18 V.S.A. § 9351(a):
 - “The Plan shall... “be revised annually and updated comprehensively every five years to provide a strategic vision for clinical health information technology.”
 - “include the implementation of an integrated electronic health information infrastructure for the sharing of electronic health information among health care facilities, health care professionals, public and private payers, and patients.”
 - “include standards and protocols designed to promote patient education, patient privacy, physician best practices, electronic connectivity to health care data, access to advance care planning documents, and, overall, a more efficient and less costly means of delivering quality health care in Vermont.”
- 18 V.S.A. § 9375:
 - The Board is charged to review and approve Vermont’s statewide HIT Plan “to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to enable the State to achieve the principles expressed in section 9371 of this title [Principles for Health Care Reform].”

GMCB Oversight of CC



Review and approve Connectivity Criteria

- Under 18 V.S.A. § 9352(i)(2), 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.

Process Reminder



- **November 1:** AHS submitted Update to the HIE Plan and Connectivity Criteria to GMCB.
- **November 2 through December 4:** Update to the HIE Plan and Connectivity Criteria posted for special public comment period.
- **November 18:** AHS and VITL presented the Update to the HIE Plan and Connectivity Criteria.
- **December 4:** Final staff recommendation to GMCB on HIE Plan and Connectivity Criteria; potential Board votes.

HIE Plan Review

- Is the HIE Plan consistent with the HIT Plan requirements of [18 V.S.A. § 9351](#)?
- Is the HIE Plan consistent with the Principles for Health Care Reform in [18 V.S.A. § 9371](#), and will it help achieve the State's health reform goals?
- Is the HIE Plan consistent with other relevant legislation?
- Does the HIE Plan incorporate national best practices and expertise as well as feedback from Vermonters, including key HIE constituents (VITL, State of Vermont HIE stakeholders, and other private HIE providers), health care providers, and individuals seeking care?

Connectivity Criteria Review



- Are the proposed Connectivity Criteria in alignment with HIE Plan goals, and will they support implementation of the HIE Plan and achievement of the State's health reform goals?
- Are the proposed Connectivity Criteria sufficiently clear to be operationalized by VITL, the State of Vermont, and health care provider organizations?

Public Comment



- We received no public comments.

Staff Recommendations



- Approve 2023-2028 HIE Strategic Plan.
- Approve Connectivity Criteria for 2024.

GMCCB Oversight of HIE



- 18 V.S.A. §9351 (a)(2):
 - The Board shall “approve, reject, or request modifications to the Plan within 45 days following its submission; if the Board has taken no action after 45 days, the Plan shall be deemed to have been approved.”
- 18 V.S.A. §9375 (b)(2)(A):
 - The Board shall “Review and approve Vermont’s statewide Health Information Technology Plan pursuant to section 9351 of this title to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to enable the State to achieve the principles expressed in section 9371 of this title [Principles for Health Care Reform].”
- 18 V.S.A. §9375 (b)(2)(B):
 - The Board shall “Review and approve the criteria required for health care providers and health care facilities to create or maintain connectivity to the State’s health information exchange as set forth in section 9352 of this title. Within 90 days following this approval, the Board shall issue an order explaining its decision.

HIE Plan Requirements in 18 V.S.A. § 9351



- Support statewide use of electronic health information in patient care, health care policymaking, clinical research, health care financing, and continuous quality improvements
- Educate the general public and health care professionals about the value of an electronic health infrastructure for improving patient care
- Ensure the use of national standards for the development of an interoperable system
- Propose strategic investments in equipment and other infrastructure elements
- Recommend funding mechanisms for the ongoing development and maintenance costs of a statewide health information system
- Incorporate existing health care information technology initiatives to the extent feasible in order to avoid incompatible systems and duplicative efforts
- Integrate the information technology components of the Blueprint for Health, Master Patient Index, other Medicaid management information systems, and any other information technology initiatives
- Address issues related to data ownership, governance, and confidentiality/security of patient information

HIE Plan Meets Requirements

- Addresses efforts to promote use and awareness of health exchange
- Discusses technology and other investments as well as funding approaches
- Highlights awareness of other ongoing HIT efforts and how the HIE can interoperate
- Extensively discusses data stewardship and governance
- Identifies national standards and how the HIE can best make use of them
- Touches upon each of the 14 principles listed in 18 V.S.A. § 9371

Connectivity Criteria Meet Requirements



- Criteria align with the HIE Strategic Plan
- Criteria will help implement goals of the HIE Strategic Plan
- Criteria are clear enough to be operationalized

Motion to Vote on HIE Plan



- Suggested motion language:
 - “Move that the GMCB approve the *2024 Update to the HIE Strategic Plan* as submitted, subject to the proposed conditions reviewed [and modified] by the Board today.”

Motion to Vote on Connectivity Criteria

- Suggested motion language:
 - “Move that the GMCB approve the *2024 Connectivity Criteria* as submitted, subject to the proposed conditions reviewed [and modified] by the Board today.”