The Cabinet for Health and Family Services

THE KHIE CONNECTION

Volume 1, Issue 7   May 2014

Welcome to the Kentucky Health Information Exchange Newsletter!

KHIE
KENTUCKY HEALTH
INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Special Points of Interest

As of May 19, 2014:

⇒ KHIE has 563 signed participation agreements (representing 2,048 locations)

⇒ A total of 814 provider locations are submitting live data and exchanging information (see Page 4 for more details)

⇒ 83% of acute care hospitals (37 businesses representing 83 hospital locations) in KY are live on KHIE

⇒ Over $164, 000,000 has been paid to Medicaid hospitals and providers in KY, through the KY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Over $153,000,000 has been paid to Medicare hospitals in KY through the EHR Incentive Program

⇒ KHIE is averaging over 100,000 queries per week

Governor Steve Beshear issued an Executive Order in August 2009, establishing the Governor's Office of Electronic Health Information in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to oversee the advancement of health information exchange in Kentucky.

KHIE continues to build its robust health information exchange and allows providers to access the right information at the right time in order to make the right decisions. KHIE also facilitates providers in meeting several objectives of Stages 1 and 2 of the Meaningful Use EHR Incentive Program.   Overall, the KHIE works to fulfill the three-part aim: better care, lower costs, improved public health.

Inside this issue:

Message from the State Health IT Coordinator	2
KY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Topics of the Month	3
New Live Connections	4
Contact Us	5

A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE HEALTH IT COORDINATOR
POLLY MULLINS-BENTLEY

Greetings from the KY Governor's Office of Electronic Health Information! These are truly interesting times in healthcare that we live in! Amidst all of the changes with the Affordable Care Act, healthcare reform, managed care and the like, maneuvering through 2014 has quickly become akin to 'Survivor: Healthcare in 2014.'

A particular challenge that we face revolves around the changes with Meaningful Use; Stage 2 and 2014 requirements are downright daunting. As the Kentucky Health Information Exchange continues to work with providers across the Commonwealth, we often run into technical issues. I have lived by the mantra, 'no two providers or vendors are alike', and this year, I wholeheartedly believe in that statement and have begun to realize the breadth of its impact. This is most apparent within the realm of EHR certification. Though vendors generally take distinct approaches to meeting MU requirements, we have discovered gaps amid the EHR certification process and the MU requirements. This has subsequently presented significant issues.

Additionally, we have discovered that some of the EHR technology may not be fully functional for MU reporting—thus requiring additional testing and potential upgrades/patches. Unfortunately, the clock is ticking and the aforementioned issues are causing significant delays in preparation for attestation deadlines. I fear that a significant number of providers may be at serious risk of not meeting their Meaningful Use attestation deadlines.

As a result of such fears, we have held calls with the Office of the National Coordinator and CMS to present KHIE's concerns and frustrations. My office, in collaboration with key stakeholders, has written a letter that strongly urges CMS for a reprieve, specific to the 'Transitions of Care' and 'View, Download and Transmit' requirements. Many hospitals and providers across the Commonwealth have submitted their name(s) to be added to the bottom of the letter, in support of our recommendation. The letter will be submitted to CMS by May 23rd. To add your organization to the letter, please contact me at polly.mullins-bently@ky.gov. Thank you for your continued support of improving healthcare and enhancing interoperability. Despite the significant hurdles that we face, we will preserver the demanding terrain of healthcare in 2014.

Sincerely,

Polly

Polly Mullins-Bentley, RN, RHIT, CPHQ

KENTUCKY MEDICAID EHR INCENTIVE PROGRAM
POINTERS OF THE MONTH

PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS AND HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS:

Eligible professionals (EPs), Eligible hospitals (EHs) and critical access hospitals (CAHs) who are not meaningful users of certified electronic health record (EHR) technology may be affected by the mandated Medicare EHR Incentive Program payment adjustments. EPs, EHs and CAHs that are eligible to participate in both the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs may attest to meaningful use under either program to avoid the payment adjustments and must continue to demonstrate meaningful use **every year** to avoid payment adjustments in subsequent years. There are informative resources available on the CMS website located at http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/index.html under the Educational Resources link in the left hand navigation menu.

Eligible professionals may apply for hardship exceptions to avoid the payment adjustments described above. Hardship exceptions will be granted only under specific circumstances and only if CMS determines that providers have demonstrated that those circumstances pose a significant barrier to their achieving meaningful use. Information on how to apply for a hardship exception is posted on the CMS EHR Incentive Programs website.

PAYMENT REASSIGNMENT PROCESS:

Any eligible professional (EP) who chooses to reassign payments to any NPI other than their individual NPI, must upload documentation to the attestation in the form of a signed agreement indicating they permit their monies to be reassigned. The agreement shall be on the entities clinic or group letterhead, renewed each payment year and to include all information below:

- Name of eligible professional (EP) participating in the incentive program
- NPI of EP participating in the incentive program
- Program Year and Payment Year EP agrees to reassign incentive monies
- Name of clinic or group payment will be reassigned to
- NPI of clinic or group that payment will be reassigned to
- TIN of entity that payment is to be reassigned to
- Signed and dated by EP
- Signed and dated by authorized representative of entity receiving incentive payment on behalf of the EP

REMINDERS:

- All EPs, EHs and CAHs must have EHR Technology certified to the 2014 EHR certification criteria to meet meaningful use.
- Review attestation guidance located on the EHR website under Publications.
- All EPs, EHs and CAHs must have a signed Participation Agreement as well as applicable addendums with KHIE.
- Know how your practice bills!

CONTACT US:

- To submit an issue/concern via email, please access the left hand navigation bar on the attestation website and click Send E-mail.
- Please visit the KY Medicaid EHR Incentive Website at http://chfs.ky.gov/dms/EHR.htm for information and educational resources

NEW LIVE CONNECTIONS

STATEWIDE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The KHIE continues to build its robust health information exchange and currently has a total of 801 provider locations submitting live data and actively exchanging information. To see KHIE's footprint across the Commonwealth, please see the map below.

NEW LIVE CONNECTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

The following providers have made new live connections with KHIE:

- Baptist Healthcare System, Inc
- Capital Family Physicians PSC
- Carroll County Memorial Hospital
- Hardin Professional Services, LLC
- Jennie Stuart Medical Center
- Spring View Physician Practice, LLC
- Memorial Hospital, Inc
- Mercy Health Partners, Inc
- Big Sandy Healthcare Inc
- Pediatrics Associates of Elizabethtown, PLLC
- St. Elizabeth Medical Center
- Trigg County Hospital, Inc
- University Medical Center, Inc
- Western KY Family Healthcare, Inc

VIRTUAL HEALTH RECORD (VHR) TRAINING

KHIE'S Community Record, the Virtual Health Record (VHR), is a comprehensive electronic health record that is available using a secure browser. KHIE's Outreach team have completed the following VHR trainings for the month of May and the end of April:

- Northern KY Independent Health Department
- Pike County Health Department
- Lawrence County Health Department

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT VHR DEMO

KHIE is working diligently to provide the LHDs with access to the KHIE community portal. The following local health departments have completed VHR demos:

- Ashland-Boyd County
- Barren River District
- Floyd County
- Green River District
- Gateway District
- Greenup County
- Hopkins County
- Kentucky River District
- Lawrence County
- Lexington-Fayette County
- Louisville Metro
- Northern Kentucky Independent District
- Pike County
- Purchase District
- WEDCO District

Hospital
Physician
Lab
Combination
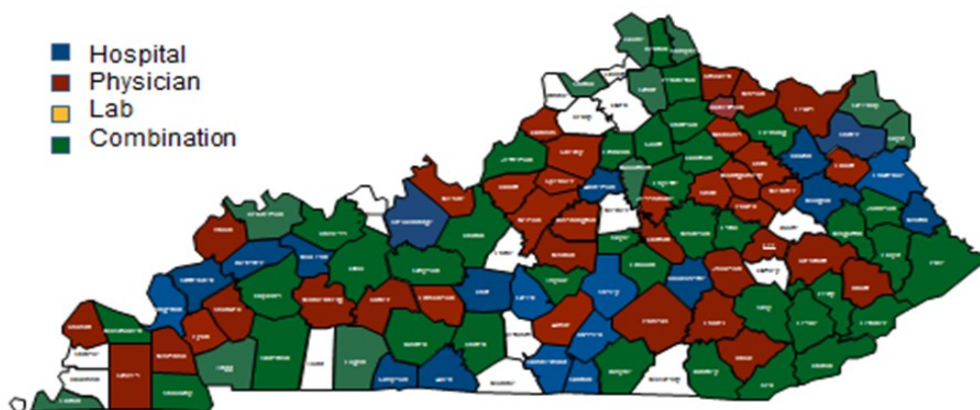
Others:
- Kentucky Immunization Registry
- State Lab (Microbiology) (Franklin)
- Grundy, VA
- Hamilton, OH
- Indiana
- Pennyroyal Behavioral Health Centers

CONTACT US

Kentucky Health Information Exchange

275 East Main Street, 4W-A

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

(502) 564-7992

Click here to visit our website!