

The DHIN Dialogue

December 2015

A Newsletter from the Delaware Health Information Network



The Doctor is...Online

The Telemedicine Trend Takes Off

Since its start nearly half a century ago, the telemedicine concept has grown exponentially, benefitting from improved technology, the digital boom and the willingness of both the medical field and a patient population to seek care through non-traditional methods.

Telemedicine, or telehealth, incorporates a host of services, including video consultations with physicians, remote patient monitoring, mobile health monitoring products for consumers and remote CME for health providers in rural areas. (Visit the American Telemedicine Association's [website](#) to learn more.)

The telemedicine trend is growing, with more than half of physicians nationwide willing to see patients online, according to [American Well's 2015 Telehealth Physician Survey](#). And, with [six out of ten patients](#) amenable to receiving care through a video visit, there's indeed a market for tele-consultations with physicians.

Here in Delaware, hospitals in Kent and Sussex Counties utilize telemedicine for [consultations with pediatric specialists](#) at Nemours/Al duPont Hospital for Children, saving worried families long car rides and identifying potentially life-threatening conditions for follow-up. In Sussex County, where there are few behavioral health specialists to meet the needs of a growing – and spread out – population, telemedicine can connect patients in need with providers upstate.

Just this year, Delaware became the 29th state to pass legislation specific to requiring health insurers to pay for telemedicine just as they do office visits.

"We are making an effort in Delaware to transform the way healthcare is delivered and paid for and this piece of legislation supports that," said Governor Jack Markell. "Telemedicine will improve access to information and medical care for Delawareans, leading to better health outcomes for patients and reduced costs for hospitalizations and transportation."

As part of our mission to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare in Delaware through technology, the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) supports the State of Delaware and industry leaders like HIMSS in their efforts to create telemedicine parity and mitigate the barriers to use.

For our part in developing and promoting telehealth services, we continue work on our grant-funded [statewide patient portal](#), designed to give patients access to their medical results shared by physicians, hospitals and labs.

And, with an eye to harnessing existing technology to enhance communication between patient and physician, DHIN will roll out a mobile-based telehealth product for consumers in 2016.

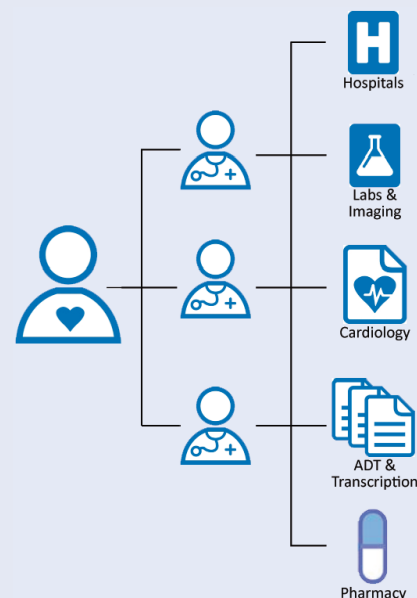
We look forward to sharing updates on both products in the coming months.



Looking Back on 2015

Learn how DHIN is driving value for the Delaware healthcare ecosystem in our 2015 annual report. *DHIN: Data and the Greater Good* is [available online](#).

Adding Value to Your Practice: DHIN DIRECT



To support attestation requirements for MU2, DHIN offers a proprietary Health Information Service Provider (HISP) for DIRECT Messaging. Several Delaware practices use the HISP to safely and securely DIRECT message other providers through HIPAA-compliant, certified technology.

DHIN is currently offering to a limited number of practices a free trial period of up to three years (lasting through June 30, 2018). Please contact your DHIN Relationship Manager for details on this low-cost, turnkey solution for secure messaging, referrals and exchanges.

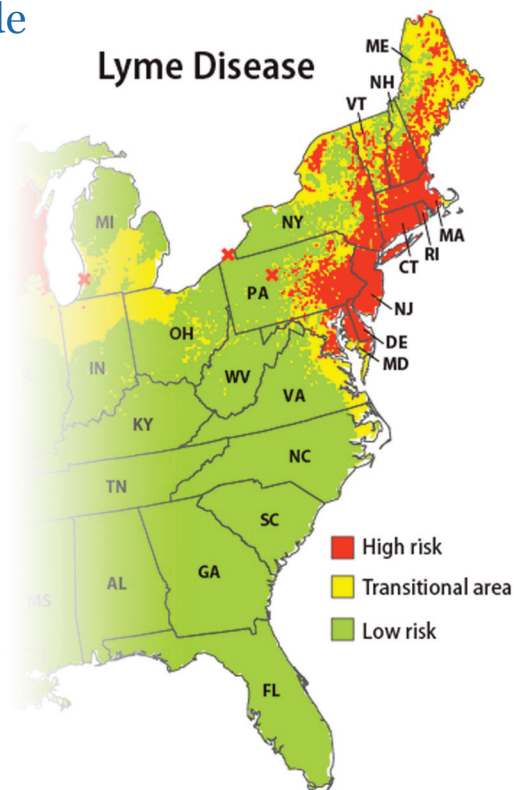
Cracking the Lyme Code

Delaware ranked 8th in the nation in incidence of Lyme disease in 2014, and the State wants to do something about that. Earlier this month, the Lyme disease Task Force released its recommendations about this frequently misdiagnosed chronic illness. Among them:

- Improved healthcare coverage for Lyme patients
- Increased academic research in the hopes of finding a cure
- Creation of an oversight board for educating the healthcare community
- Giving DNREC authority over Delaware's tick problem

To help the State Division of Public Health's monitoring of incidence and outbreaks, DHIN provides bulk feeds of de-identified clinical data from DHIN participating hospitals. As Delaware intensifies its focus on identifying and eradicating the spread of Lyme disease, DHIN will continue to support these public health efforts.

Lyme Disease



Celebrating a “Silver” Accomplishment



Together with our partners, DHIN recognizes the certification of our 25th EMR, Aprima. With the addition of Aprima, there are a total of 348 practices that have a certified DHIN integration available to them or 82% of DHIN enrolled practices (348/426). The Aprima certification also means that there are 1,296 licensed medical providers enrolled in DHIN with the option of having clinical results delivered automatically in to their EMR. Thank you to the team at Aprima and our certification testing practices, Allergy Associates PA, Delaware Physician Associates and Westover Cardiology, LLC., for all of their hard work in certifying the integration between Aprima and DHIN. If you have questions about your EMR's certification status, please contact your DHIN Relationship Manager.

TECH TIPS

For answers to commonly asked questions or technical problems, be sure to visit our [Tech Tips](#) page on the DHIN website, under Resources. New to the page are links to commonly-viewed instructional videos, which may help you solve occasional Community Health Record challenges. As always, please feel free to call our Help Desk during business hours at (302) 480-1770.

Staying Social

Like. Follow. Tweet. Share. **Connect with DHIN.**



With more than 3,000 fans and followers to date, DHIN's digital footprint is growing!



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