Nine West Virginia Hospitals Embrace Cutting Edge Technology with WVHIN’s Health Information Exchange

Hospitals use Health Information Exchange to electronically exchange patient health information to support patient-centered care

The West Virginia Health Information Network (WVHIN) is pleased to announce that Monongalia General Hospital, Preston Memorial Hospital, Thomas Memorial Hospital, Grafton City Hospital and St. Mary’s Medical Center are now “live” on WVHIN’s query-based Health Information Exchange (HIE). This brings the total number of hospitals participating in the HIE to nine; Wheeling Hospital and WVU Healthcare (Ruby Memorial, Berkeley Medical Center, Jefferson Medical Center and approximately 100 affiliated clinics and physician practices) joined the HIE last year.

WVHIN’s HIE allows participating hospitals to electronically share patient health information with each other in a secure manner for treatment and public health reporting purposes. Providers benefit from receiving the latest patient health information in near real time, at the point of care, in an organized view that is easy to read. Some of the benefits for patients will be a reduction in duplicate tests, improved quality of care due to doctors having a patient’s most current medical information and access to critical life-saving information during emergencies (e.g., allergy information, current medications, blood type, etc).

In addition, sending required information to the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health for public health reporting purposes and accessing advance directives online through the WV e-Directive Registry can all be done through the WVHIN’s HIE.

The WVHIN is at the forefront of changing the state’s healthcare system through the use of health information technology, replacing antiquated data sharing methods like fax and mail. In December 2012, the WVHIN was recognized by the federal government as a national leader in its efforts to enhance the safety and quality of healthcare by embracing the use of health information technology.

According to Phil Weikle, WVHIN Chief Operations Officer, “we are very excited to have these new hospitals join our network; the WVHIN now has partners in many areas of the state. In an effort to provide the best healthcare to patients across the state, participation of healthcare organizations in the HIE is crucial so we continue moving forward in connecting providers in all corners of West Virginia.”
About WVHIN
The West Virginia Health Information Network (WVHIN) is a public/private partnership created through West Virginia Code Chapter 16, Article 29G. The WVHIN is charged with building a secure electronic health information system for the exchange of patient data among physicians, hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, other care providers, and other stakeholders. Truven Health Analytics serves as the WVHIN’s technical services partner. For more information on the WVHIN visit www.wvhin.org.