

WASHINGTON LINK4HEALTH: ADVANCING COORDINATION OF CARE AND PATIENT OUTCOMES WITH STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF CLINICAL INFORMATION

To improve the coordination of care provided for Apple Health enrollees - and ultimately all Washingtonians – the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) is initiating Washington Link4Health, a multi-year initiative to advance the statewide electronic exchange of clinical records. The Washington Link4Health initiative is part of the State’s long-term efforts to improve health care quality, better manage costs and improve health outcomes for all Washingtonians.

The residents of Washington deserve and expect a health care system that can keep up with them as they change addresses, employers, providers and insurers and as their health status changes. To improve coordination of care and patient outcomes, complete and relevant real-time medical, dental, behavioral health and social service support data must be delivered to the right provider, for the right patient, at the right time. Washington Link4Health is an important first step in helping to make that happen.

Washington Link4Health’s First Service: Clinical Data Repository (CDR)

Working with Washington’s statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE), HCA is serving as the catalyst to introduce Washington Link4Health’s first statewide service, the Clinical Data Repository (CDR). When fully populated with clinical records, the CDR will provide authorized access to integrated medical, dental, behavioral health and social service support data for enrollees of Apple Health.

That means when a patient covered by Apple Health shows up for care in a doctor’s office, hospital or multi-specialty clinic where they have never received care, a more complete medical record could be available electronically for the patient’s care team – across multiple health and social service enterprises – for that patient. This ‘longitudinal’ health record would provide valuable information for healthcare providers as they treat their patients.

Three Reasons Why a Clinical Data Repository (CDR) Service Makes Sense

Across the country, integrating a person’s complete clinical record to support coordinated treatment decisions and improve the health of our population is the next breakthrough for health care. These changes offer great potential for benefitting healthcare providers and patients. For instance:

1. A CDR service could help reduce duplication of services and treatments.
2. A CDR service could help providers make treatment decisions with greater speed - which could improve health outcomes.
3. A CDR service could provide patients and their team of providers real-time, accurate health data.

As HCA implements Washington Link4Health's first service, the initial population to benefit will be a portion of the 1.4 million Washingtonians who receive health coverage under our state's Apple Health program. The service will be rolled out to providers treating individuals enrolled in Apple Health in at least three stages through 2017, eventually encompassing all Apple Health enrollees.

Washington Link4Health's first service, the CDR, will give members of the care community access to a real-time clinical record. This will result in an integrated record for Apple Health enrollees who may have moved from provider to provider or from plan to plan.

MAIN GOALS OF THE CLINICAL DATA REPOSITORY SERVICE

- Provide Apple Health enrollees – as consumers of health care services – access to quality care based on a real time, clinically relevant electronic record that describes medical, dental, behavioral health, and social service supports received and prescribed.
- Give providers access to timely, actionable and integrated health information to identify gaps in care and make informed care decisions.
- Provide care teams across the community access to complete patient-level health information and shared care plans for patients with complex and chronic conditions – regardless of the entity where care is being offered.
- Improve chronic illness care through better coordination and integration of care and social supports, particularly for individuals with both physical and behavioral needs.
- Support new methods that place greater emphasis on health care value rather than the volume of health care procedures. This will drive value-based purchasing across the community, starting with the Washington State as the 'first mover'.
- Provide methods for collecting qualitative medical and behavioral health data commonly used for performance measure reporting.

Link4Health Leadership

Washington Link4Health is a Washington State Health Care Authority initiative to help address the needs for community wide clinical health data solutions, services and tools. HCA is in the process of contracting with OneHealthPort – the State's designated Health Information Exchange – to help implement the first service. Because multiple state agencies provide different Medicaid services to Apple Health enrollees, there are several state agencies that will participate in the first stage of Washington Link4Health's service.

Learn More

Website: HealthIT.wa.gov – Please go to the HIE (Health Information Exchange) tab on the left menu.

Email: HealthIT@hca.wa.gov – Please put Washington Link4Health in the email's subject line.

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