

- **2004:** A health information exchange project, led by Buffalo Academy of Medicine, engaged members of the physician community, the University of Buffalo, county and state public health in developing a white paper outlining a plan for interoperability to move health care information safely and securely between a patients' health care providers.
- **2006:** Western New York's Clinical Information Exchange d/b/a HEALTHeLINK is established as the result of unprecedented collaboration and funding from the region's major hospital systems and health plans, along with a grant from New York State.
- **November 2007:** First hospital connected to HEALTHeLINK as part of ongoing pilot phase.
- **January 21, 2009:** HEALTHeLINK officially launched the clinical information exchange to the Western New York health community.
- **December 2009:** At year end, 228 physicians are participating, approximately 46,700 Western New Yorkers have signed a HEALTHeLINK consent and more than 43 million results are available.
- **February 2010:** WCA Hospital in Jamestown became the first hospital serving a rural community to participate in HEALTHeLINK.
- **May 2010:** Named one of 17 Beacon Communities funded by a \$16.1 million grant through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). The three-year initiative was tasked with building and strengthening local health IT infrastructure as well as testing innovative approaches to make measureable improvements in health care and cost.
- **August 2010:** Windsong Radiology became the first independent radiology practice to begin submitting patient records and reports through HEALTHeLINK.
- **October 2010:** Awarded New York State Department of Health supplemental award to develop and implement a clinical data exchange to public health, focused on child health immunization and newborn screening, syndromic surveillance and chronic disease with an emphasis on cancer, to be reproduced by other RHIOs across the state.
- **August 2011:** Joined with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to participate in Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Health Communities Program to improve delivery of care and services to Veterans through health information technology. HEALTHeLINK is one of 13 communities in the United States selected to participate.
- **December 2011:** At year end, more than 2,000 physicians are participating, approximately 350,000 Western New Yorkers have signed a HEALTHeLINK consent form, and more than 60 million total results are available through the exchange.

- **June 2012:** Briody Health Care Facility in Lockport became the first long term care facility to join as a data source.
- **August 2013:** As a result of a \$3.8 million HEAL 17 grant, HEALTHeLINK worked to increase the number of behavioral health providers using EHRs and improved communication between behavioral health and primary care providers for approximately 20,000 patients.
- **September 2013:** In collaboration with Catholic Medical Partners, P2 Collaborative of Western New York and more than 40 other health care organizations, HEALTHeLINK marked the completion of the Beacon Community Project, which was focused on producing real-life clinical improvements for diabetes patients.
- **December 2013:** At year end, approximately 3,000 physicians are participating, close to 600,000 Western New Yorkers have signed a HEALTHeLINK consent form, and more than 102 million total results are available through the exchange.
- **2014:** More than one million patient record lookups this year enabling efficient access to information doctors need to make better decisions for their patients. It took HEALTHeLINK six years to reach its first million, and only 12 months to reach the second million.
- **February 2014:** Analysis of duplicative CT scans shows conservative cost savings of \$1.3 million to Western New York health system. Findings also showed opportunity for enhanced patient safety by reducing unnecessary radiation exposure.
- **April 2014:** Sweet Home Family Medicine in Amherst became first practice in the state to request a full immunization history on a patient and receive the resulting report from the New York State Immunization Information System via HEALTHeLINK's automated query service.
- **October 2014:** All 27 Western New York hospitals are now participating with HEALTHeLINK.
- **July 2015:** Brookings Institution study of health information exchange usage in three local emergency departments revealed significant reduction in laboratory tests and radiology exams.
- **Fall 2015:** Officially connected to Statewide Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY), a technology framework spanning the entire state that allows health care providers efficient access to their patients' data.
- **November 2015:** A new technology platform is launched to improve the overall ease of use for providers and expand quality improvement efforts and reporting requirements.
- **December 2015:** At year end, 3,943 physicians are participating, more than 770,000 Western New Yorkers have signed a HEALTHeLINK consent form, and approximately 369 million total results are available through the exchange.