

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

NEBRASKA HEALTH INFORMATION INITIATIVE

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

When we reflect on 2019 here at Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NEHII), a few words come to mind:

Growth. To say that NEHII has grown in 2019 would be an understatement. Whether you're looking at our now-team of more than 30 highly-skilled and equally-passionate individuals; our continuously-expanding service offerings; our growing list of certifications and recognitions; or the official launch of the Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative, NEHII Shared Services and the NEHII Foundation under the NEHII umbrella, a more accurate description would be "exploded by leaps and bounds." Regardless of how you put it, one thing is for sure: in 2019, NEHII officially became a household name in the health IT world and has been revered as one of the nation's most successful health information exchanges.

Partnership. We recently came across the following quote by Henry Ford: "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." And, we couldn't agree more. In 2019, we worked closely with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Medicaid to execute on projects focused on onboarding entities to data sharing; maximizing the value of connections; building population health competencies; and expanding on technology investments, community data types and behavioral data.

Commitment. We went into 2019 with our sights set on delivering on the following strategic priorities:

1. Reduce the burden of regulatory reporting
2. Grow the NEHII data utility and add value
3. Modernization of NEHII
4. Expand services and enhancements in support of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
5. Collaborate effectively and proactively with community partners

You'll read more in this annual report about how we did, but here's a not-so-subtle spoiler alert: it's good.

Pride. We're incredibly proud of the work we did in 2019, the partnerships we've formed and, most importantly, the difference we've made in the well-being of Nebraskans. When we started NEHII, we vowed to enable a healthier Nebraska and the region through availability of health information, and, as showcased by our accomplishments in 2019, we succeeded in doing just that.

The best part about all of this? We're just getting started. We thank you for joining us on this exciting ride and look forward to continuing this journey with you throughout 2020.



Jaime Bland, DNP, RN
CEO, NEHII



Michael White, MD
Chairman of the Board

ABOUT NEHII

NEHII is Nebraska's statewide health information exchange (HIE). Since being established just over 11 years ago, we've been connecting Nebraskans and their health care data to interoperability frameworks that enable the secure sharing of information at the point of care.

Our commitment has led NEHII to become one of the nation's most successful HIEs – having received national recognition in being named first in many categories: from our work with public health and the PDMP, to the first HIE to achieve National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accreditation, NEHII is leading the charge and is at the forefront of the digital transformation of care.

And through the extensive growth and recognition we've received over the years, there has been one everlasting constant: our steadfast commitment to enabling a healthier Nebraska by effectively:

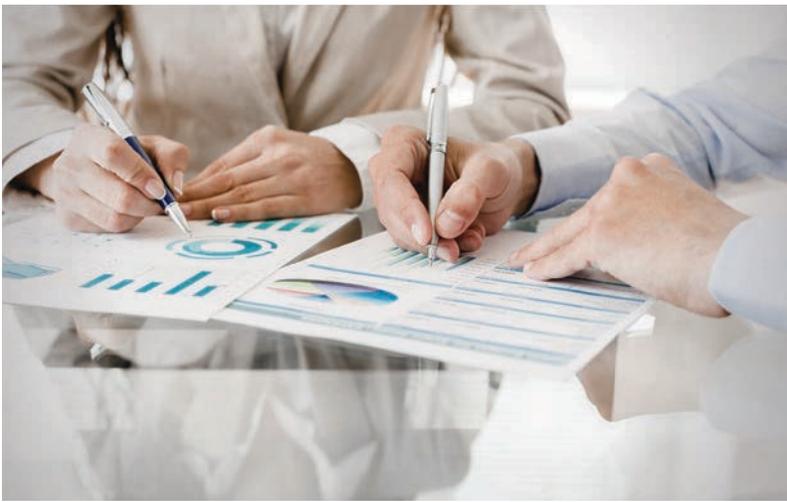
- **Leading** in patient safety initiatives and improved clinical outcomes
- **Enhancing** provider workflow and access to comprehensive information
- **Improving** data quality and reducing reporting burden in clinical settings
- **Demonstrating** the value of sharing health information

This commitment goes together with our mission: to provide Nebraska and the region a platform for the aggregation of health information and a facilitator of the quadruple aim.

And, our vision: to enable a healthier Nebraska and region through availability of health information – shifting the momentum of quality, safety and value to the clinician and as the facilitator of population health.

We strive to showcase this commitment through the services described on the next page.





HIE

NEHII is the designated statewide HIE for Nebraska; also serving western Iowa, connecting more than 4 million lives and more than 275 facilities and counting. Participating clinicians can better care for patients by having instant access to a comprehensive, longitudinal health and medication history. Though NEHII has traditionally connected to critical access hospitals, it has since expanded its reach to include ambulatory, long-term post-acute, skilled nursing, specialty hospitals and more. NEHII has also established a collaboration with public health to reduce the burden of reporting and number of connections.

Through the HIE, NEHII also supports the ability to deliver syndromic surveillance, electronic lab reporting and immunization vaccination reporting to public health registries.

VALUE-ADDED SERVICES

NEHII is continually expanding our services and analytics applications for population health management. We offer dashboards that enable users to view and monitor comprehensive analytics, quality measures across various programs and contracts, population and patient-level gap reports and other applications that help clinicians understand their patients' emergency department utilization and readmissions.

NEHII offers direct secured messaging via our integrated health information service provider (HISP) services and event notifications.

PDMP

Through the prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP), NEHII provides a comprehensive query-based medication history of all dispensed prescriptions in Nebraska, as well as mail order pharmacies dispensing prescriptions to Nebraska zip codes. This results in more complete, near real-time medication and clinical information that can better inform clinicians of care gaps.

MIPS DATA REPORTING

NEHII is a designated Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR), which is a CMS-approved entity vetted to collect and submit clinical data to CMS for Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) on behalf of participating clinicians. And, not only is NEHII the only HIE with QCDR status, it is also one of only 16 QCDR entities that is certified to report on all measures across each of the three MIPS categories and all available electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs).

Participating in the NEHII QCDR service provides clinicians access to dedicated population health advisors, MIPS subject matter experts and analytics staff to support MIPS quality and promote interoperability measures and guidance on MIPS improvement activity requirements.

NCQA EMEASURE CERTIFICATION

In 2019, NEHII became the first HIE to earn National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) eMeasure Certification – taking a stride forward in the race to improve quality measurement and make health information easier to collect, in a more immediate fashion. With this certification, NEHII can help health plans save time by eliminating the primary source verification portion of the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) compliance audit. Instead of spending hours tracking down information from their providers, they can use the HIE information on the approved eMeasures for documentation.

Additionally, eMeasure certification allows NEHII to develop reliable eCQM and quality metric dashboards that are near real-time. These dashboards can be used to drive continuous improvement to support value-based initiatives within an organization.

NEHII TEAM



Executive Leadership

- Jaime Bland, Chief Executive Officer
- Lori Egger, Chief Administrative Officer
- Meghan Chaffee, Chief Legal Officer
- Tom Frette, Chief Community Engagement Officer
- Naresh Sundar Rajan, Chief Technology Officer (Interim)
- Melanie Surber, Chief Clinical Officer
- Larra Petersen-Lukenda, Chief Population Health Officer
- Joy Doll, Chief Academics Program Officer
- Stefanie Fink, Corporate Strategy Advisor
- Eric Malm, Senior Director, Program Integrity
- Kevin Borchert, Senior Director, Pharmacy Services
- Zac Roberts, Director, Accounting/Controller

NEHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Michael Ash**, MD, Vice Chancellor of Information & Technology, UNMC; Executive Vice President & Chief Transformation Officer, Nebraska Medicine
- **Jaime Bland**, DNP, MS, RN-BC, Chief Executive Officer, NEHI
- **Anne Byers**, eHealth and Community IT Manager, State of Nebraska Information Technology Commission
- **Stephanie Daubert**, Chief Financial Officer, Nebraska Medicine
- **Shari Flowers**, JD, Vice President, Compliance, Nebraska Methodist Health System
- **Jeff Francis**, Vice President of Finance and CFO, Nebraska Methodist Health System
- **Bruce Goldberg**, PharmD, President and Pharmacist, Pharmacy Express Services
- **John Mentgen**, FACHE, President and CEO, Regional West Health Services
- **James O'Connor**, JD, Partner, Baird Holm LLP
- **Ann Polich**, MD, Vice President Quality, Safety, Population Health, Nebraska Methodist Health System
- **Jerry Vuchak**, Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer, Children's Hospital & Medical Center
- **Michael White**, MD, Associate Dean for Educational Innovation and Chief Academic Officer, CHI Health, Creighton University School of Medicine
- **Jeanette Wojtalewicz**, MHA, SVP and Chief Financial Officer, CHI Health
- **Delane Wycoff**, MD, Pathologist, Pathology Services PC



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

NEBRASKA HEALTHCARE COLLABORATIVE LAUNCH



Pictured above, from left to right: Tim Meyers, State President of WellCare of Nebraska; Jaime Bland; Dr. Ann Polich, Vice President of Quality/Performance Improvement at Methodist Health System and NEHII Board Member; Dr. Matthew Van Patton, former Director of Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care for the Department of Health and Human Services and NEHII Board Member.

At a press conference held on Sept. 20, 2019, NEHII announced the creation of the Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to facilitating health data science as a core competency in Nebraska.

The Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative is the direct result of a long exploratory conversation between NEHII, providers, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and WellCare of Nebraska regarding opportunities to create a market resource for data-driven decision-making. Working alongside other community partners, including academic affiliates, public health and community service organizations and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative is focused on:

- Data sciences informing population health
- Data sciences informing the understanding of service gaps and identifying system improvement opportunities
- Context of health care data, supporting quality improvements and research related to data standards and health information technology
- Contributing to economic growth through health data science-related jobs.



“The Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative speaks to NEHII’s vision to enable a healthier Nebraska and region through availability of health information,” said Jaime Bland. “Through this initiative, we’re excited to solidify Nebraska’s position as a leader in the nation in not only health data sciences and technology, but also the health care ecosystem as a whole.”

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

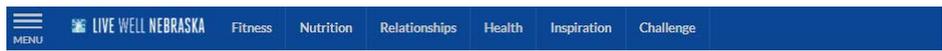
NEBRASKA HEALTHCARE COLLABORATIVE LAUNCH (CONTINUED)

"This creates an infrastructure of partners and peers collectively focused on improving the health status of all Nebraskans," said Dr. Matthew Van Patton, former Director of the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care for DHHS.

WellCare of Nebraska received the state's approval of the allocation plan for the 2017 reinvestment funds. Five million dollars has been set aside for the establishment of a collaborative for the purpose of improving and transforming the health of the state's population, as well as its economic well-being through research. This will be known as the Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative. Five million dollars has also been set aside for endowed chairs with research universities.

"WellCare of Nebraska was the first managed care organization in the state to work with NEHII to improve access to patient information, thus improving treatment for our members," said Tim Meyers, State President of WellCare of Nebraska. "We are honored to continue this long-standing relationship. By exchanging complete, accurate data more quickly, WellCare and NEHII can support better health outcomes for all Nebraskans.

Establishing the Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative effort ensures that everyone who touches healthcare in Nebraska is in alignment."



Nebraska's 'monumental' data project key in improving health outcomes, reducing costs, officials say

By Julie Anderson World-Herald staff writer Sep 24, 2019



woman computer form hospital doctor appointment
PEXELS.COM



Partners in Nebraska's health information system are taking next steps to improve health outcomes — and the state's IT workforce — through data.

The Nebraska Health Information Initiative, or NEHII, has been working to link patient records collected by physicians, hospitals, pharmacies and other health care entities across the state for roughly a decade. An ER doctor in Kearney, for instance, now can check the medications and health history of a visiting Omahan who lands in her hospital.

But so far, that data has been put to limited use with questions involving larger groups of patients, known as population health. That may involve checking whether at-risk groups, such as diabetics, are getting recommended eye and foot screenings on time and reaching out to those who aren't.

NEW NEHII ENTITIES

In addition to the launch of the Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative, NEHII also announced the creation of the following entities under the NEHII Inc. umbrella:



NEHII Foundation, for furthering the health of the population of Nebraska through health data sciences and philanthropic opportunities



NEHII Shared Services, supporting the infrastructure and governance of the NEHII enterprise

Each entity is led by their respective board of directors.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION

Two thousand nineteen was the start of a technology revolution at NEHII – in more ways than one.

HIE Core: With a process starting in late 2018, NEHII conducted a thorough analysis of available solutions for the HIE, seeking a platform that was innovative, collaborative and transformative. Enter: InterSystems HealthShare – a platform for providing core HIE functionality. Partnering with InterSystems will help providers, payers, consumers, researchers and solution developers overcome the challenges of decentralized data by creating a shared, comprehensive and unified care record. NEHII's implementation of the new platform was initiated in the summer of 2019, with an expected migration to conclude in mid-2020.

PDMP: In partnership with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, NEHII successfully launched RxGov as the new platform for the PDMP. The platform further enhances Nebraska's PDMP by supporting interstate data sharing, ensuring ease of access to providers, improving provider workflow and continuing to deliver a thorough view of a patient's prescription history, helping medical providers in their clinical decision-making.

Care Coordination: NEHII also partnered with CrossTx to deliver a care coordination service to participants. CrossTx breaks down the barrier between clinical and community and allows for succinct care team communication. It also allows NEHII participants to effectively send and receive referrals, communicate and share care plans.

Analytics: As a population health utility, NEHII provides analytics to members. Working with KPI Ninja, NEHII is developing a new set of dashboards and tools to enhance insights into care from the HIE data. Migration to the new NEHII Universe platform began in late 2019 and will continue into 2020.

Direct Messaging and Event Notification Services: NEHII is also partnering with Secure Exchange Solutions (SES) to offer multiple services to participants. In spring of 2019, SES Direct was implemented, providing participants with a secure messaging platform. Starting in early 2020, SES Notify will be offered to SES Direct participants as a subscription option to event notification services (ENS). With ENS, subscribers will receive notifications on events such as a patient being discharged from a hospital.

Single Sign-on Solutions: NEHII participates with many facilities and their systems to enable single sign-on capabilities.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

First QCDR to reach Phase 2 compliance through the CMS QECP

In October 2019, the CMS certified NEHII as Phase 2 compliant under the data security phase of the Quality Entity Certification Program (QECP). NEHII is the first QCDR to obtain this recognition.

As a Quasi Qualified Entity, NEHII can merge Medicare Parts A, B, and D claims and clinical data for providers that utilize NEHII's QCDR services.

To receive this certification, NEHII was tasked with demonstrating compliance with the data security and privacy requirements of the program. The organization needed to show established appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards in place to protect the confidentiality of NEHII's Medicare data and to prevent unauthorized use or access to it.

2020 QCDR recognition

In 2019, NEHII was reapproved by the CMS as a QCDR for 2020. A QCDR is an entity that collects medical and/or clinical data for the purpose of improvement in the quality of care furnished to patients. It's one of several available reporting mechanisms for MIPS.

As a QCDR, NEHII can help practices reduce multiple burdens of clinical quality reporting, allowing for more staff time to be spent with patients vs. mining and aggregating data; provide dashboard monitoring of quality data to help drive improvement efforts and close care gaps; and provide workable gap reports and patient lists to help prioritize resources.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

New faces, new home

With NEHII's quick rise to data quality stardom, coupled with the organization's ever-expanding portfolio of services, the number of people on the team nearly doubled throughout the year.

More than 15 new positions were added, including Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Accounting, Chief Legal Counsel, Chief Community Engagement Officer, Marketing and Communications Manager and an entire Clinical Services team focused on pharmacy services, clinical informatics, population health and value-based initiatives.

To accommodate the growing team, NEHII moved into a new corporate office in La Vista. And, there are already plans to add a second location.



National recognition

NEHII was the proud recipient of the Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC) 2019 Achievement Award for Quality and Quality Data. The award recognizes outstanding achievements in an HIE operations or program that advances or assists in quality measurement, quality reporting, quality data and/or quality improvement. NEHII's NCQA status, along with the work the analytics team did to reduce the burden of reporting for providers through the QCDR process, were strong drivers in the selection process.



Jaime Bland accepted the award on behalf of NEHII at the 2019 SHIEC Annual Conference, held August 18-21 in National Harbor, Maryland.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

One of our proudest accomplishments from 2019 was our ongoing commitment to the community. Whether we were partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services to combat the nationwide opioid crisis by leading the ongoing maintenance and enhancements of the PDMP; educating clinicians on how to effectively use the HIE platform to facilitate quality, safety and value in health care delivery; or spearheading developments in health data sciences and technology across the state, one facet of our work has continued to shine through: our steadfast commitment to our vision of enabling a healthier Nebraska and region through availability of health information.

We're proud of the impact we've made on the community, and we're incredibly thankful for the support we've received from our community partners.

NEHII in numbers: Our community footprint

6K

Registered HIE users

4M

Connected patients

20

Data-sharing general acute hospitals

41

Data-sharing critical access hospitals

2

Data-sharing children's hospitals

186

Data-sharing clinic/ambulatory facilities

212

Long-term, post-acute care facilities

7K

Registered PDMP users

612K

Patient queries in the PDMP

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

DHHS funding support

NEHII has the privilege of working with other entities in the community to make a positive, lasting impact on the health of Nebraska and surrounding region. Thanks to the funding support below from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, we've had the opportunity to make incredible strides in addressing the opioid crisis, promoting interoperability and streamlining the patient experience.



Federal Funding Source	Contract Issuing Agency	Funding Goal
CDC-PDMP Infrastructure Funding	DHHS Division of Public Health	Host/operate, maintain and enhance the PDMP
CDC-Opioid Crisis Response	DHHS Division of Public Health	Implement single sign-on functionality to reduce barriers for authorized PDMP users to access PDMP data
CDC-Opioid Crisis Response	DHHS Division of Public Health	Increase the number of facilities reporting syndromic surveillance data to the state by increasing data feeds transmitted through NEHII
CMS HITECH 90/10 Funding	DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care	Design, develop and implement projects that onboard new data connections, decrease the burden of participating in regulatory or incentive-based programs, increase data quality and completeness and migrate health and social determinant data into meaningful information for population health and aligns HIE services to the Medicaid HIT enterprise
CMS HR6 SUPPORT Act Funding	DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care	Design, develop and implement prescription drug monitoring projects that increase interstate data exchange, decrease barriers to accessing the data, improve the speed of data transmission/display, enable increased adoption of electronic prescribing and improve data analytics and use of the information to further inform clinical decision support and patient safety
HRSA Flex Grant Funding	DHHS Division of Public Health	Design and implement a pilot project to automate Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) quality measures and build dashboard/scorecard functionality to improve monitoring and use of the data to drive improvements in care

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Bringing the community together: NEHII-hosted events and sponsorships

SUPPORT Act Summit

On May 7, 2019, NEHII hosted a day-long educational summit in Omaha on the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. The event, which welcomed more than 70 registered attendees spanning from eight different states, featured an overview on funding opportunities provided by Thomas Novak (whose role at the time was Medicaid Interoperability Lead at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT); a run-down on multi-state SUPPORT Act projects and two breakout sessions: one on applications and technology, and the other on planning and progress. The SUPPORT Act Summit also shared a detailed evaluation of PDMP effectiveness.

2019 Spring Town Hall

NEHII hosted its 2019 Spring Town Hall on May 23, 2019 in Kearney, Nebraska. Fifty members around the region attended the event to learn more about NEHII's strategic plan for the coming year, hear a fireside chat on community coordination, receive a deep-dive on the PDMP and participate in an open forum where they had an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback.

2019 Annual Meeting

On October 25, 2019, NEHII hosted its 2019 Annual Meeting, the state's largest health IT conference. With a record attendance of more than 175 individuals, the event welcomed a keynote panel featuring three nationally-recognized experts in the health tech field: Lisa Bari, former Health IT and Interoperability lead, CMS Innovation Center; Thomas Novak, Director, Delivery System Reform, Office of Provider Adoption and Support; and Kelly Taylor, Product Manager, United States Digital Service. Other general session topics included a celebration of NEHII's success from 2019, a case study on how Montgomery County Memorial Hospital leveraged NEHII for quality program performance, demos on NEHII's technology transformation and a closing keynote on modernizing Medicaid management. Attendees also had the option of attending two of three breakout sessions on value-based care, population health and quality measurement and how to leverage NEHII and the PDMP for care management in MCOs.

Sponsorships

As an organization that's committed to influencing enhanced patient care and services to Nebraska communities, NEHII supports local organizations that show the same commitment to the overall health and well-being of the community. In 2019, NEHII played a key sponsorship role in events hosted by the following organizations:

- Health Current SHIEC
- Heartland Family Service
- Nebraska Hospital Association
- Nebraska Medical Association
- Nebraska Rural Health Association
- WELLCOM

NEHII also had a booth presence at events hosted by Nebraska Healthcare Quality Risk Safety and LeadingAge.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT



National Health IT Week in Washington DC

Telling the story: Educating, mentoring and giving insight and expertise

NEHII's position as one of the most successful and innovative HIEs in the nation has garnered the attention of other HIEs and health technology organizations across the country. To help educate on the importance of the work that NEHII is doing, as well as mentor and influence the work of other health-related organizations, members of NEHII's leadership team participated in numerous speaking engagements throughout 2019. Examples of NEHII's presence at notable events include:



Health Current Summit and Trade Show

- 2019 State Healthcare IT Connect Summit in Maryland
- 2019 Nebraska HIMSS Spring Meeting
- 2019 LeadingAge Spring Conference
- Nebraska Public Health Conference
- Montana Planning Board for HIE and PDMP
- Kansas PDMP Advisory Council Meeting
- SHIEC Annual Conference in Maryland
- 2019 Minneapolis Health IT Summit
- ONC Symposium on Patient Matching and Interoperability of Prescription Data for PDMPs in Washington DC
- NASCSA Annual Conference in Virginia
- Nebraska Health Care Forum
- 2019 Health Current Summit and Trade Show in Arizona
- Modern Healthcare HIT Summit Series in Minneapolis



SHIEC Annual Conference

In addition, several members of NEHII's small, but mighty, team sit on a number of nonprofit boards and committees to lend their expertise and guide the direction of community organizations:



NASCSA Conference

- Jaime Bland, Chief Executive Officer - SHIEC
- Kevin Borchert, Senior Director, Pharmacy Services - Nebraska Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board, Nebraska Board of Health, SHIEC PDMP Workgroup, Prescription Monitoring Information eXchange, RxCheck Governance Board, Nebraska Opioid Coalition, National Association of State-Controlled Substance Authorities PMP Committee, NCPDP Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs Task Group, PDMP Training and Technical Assistance Center, Nebraska Pharmacists Association, Nebraska eHealth Council
- Kevin Conway, Chief Information Officer - Nebraska HIMSS Chapter and HIMSS Chapter Advocacy Roundtable
- Lori Egger, Chief Administration Officer - Nebraska Society of CPAs Foundation
- Tom Frette, Chief Community Engagement Officer - Heartland Family Service

GLOSSARY

CMS: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

DHHS: Department of Health and Human Services

eCQMS: Electronic Clinical Quality Measures

ENS: Event Notification Services

HEDIS: Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set

HIE: Health Information Exchange

HISP: Health Information Service Provider

MIPS: Merit-based Incentive Payment System

NCQA: National Committee for Quality Assurance

NEHII: Nebraska Health Information Initiative

PDMP: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

QCDR: Qualified Clinical Data Registry

QE: Qualified Entity

QECF: Qualified Entity Certification Program

QPP: Quality Payment Program

SES: Secure Exchange Solutions

SHIEC: Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative

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