



With a message from Rodney Brown, Executive Director | October 2013

Executive Message



Health care organizations, businesses, schools and government entities demand great technology, value added services and exceptional support. HealthNet connect and BroadNet connect are committed to all three. I will use this update to give a high-level overview of some of our business development and technology initiatives.

Please share this information with your team and other partners.

HealthNet connect's Telehealth Update

In January HealthNet connect, working with leaders around the enterprise, launched a comprehensive Telehealth initiative. The initiative will develop processes, tools and services to assist HNC members/participants implement, support and sustain an ongoing Telehealth program.

The team will focus on four areas from an operational perspective. The expectation is for the executive committee and related workgroups to develop processes around each area. Below are the initial operational areas of focus:

- 1) Administrative
- 2) Financial
- 3) Clinical
- 4) IT

The executive committee has identified four pilots in our initial scope however our plan is to expand to other locations and specialties within HNC / UnityPoint Health and in the open market (i.e., schools, correctional facilities and businesses). Below are the pilots and locations and brief explanation:

- 1) eVisits/Kiosk – UnityPoint Clinic
 - An integrated e-services platform that will allow non-emergent patients to seek treatment for primary care through a patient portal or kiosk.
- 2) Telepsychiatry – Quad Cities
 - Utilize video conferencing technology to facilitate real-time, face-to-face visits between patients and specialists.
- 3) Palliative Care – Ft. Dodge
 - Utilize video capabilities to enable consultation visits with the palliative care team and/or provider.
- 4) Community Health – UnityPoint at Home
 - Utilize video-enabled remote patient monitoring to care for patients with high risk conditions.

Telehealth will be a vital part of any care-coordination strategy going forward and I am very excited about this strategic initiative.

Healthcare Connect Funds

Previously, we provided that HealthNet connect was in the development stages to apply for the Healthcare Connect Funds (HCF), which is an extension of the Rural Healthcare Pilot Program (RHCPP) both administered through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). This Fund will expand health care provider access to broadband at a lower cost for not-for profit healthcare providers.

The great news is that over the next 2 to 3 years this project will double the size of HealthNet connect and expand into Nebraska and Illinois! The result will be close to 200 participants in the HNC network.

The Request for Funding (RFP) has been submitted and we anticipate the project to begin in Q1 2014.

Technical Spotlight

What if?

What if is a question that is asked by many technical staff as it relates to their Disaster Recovery (DR) strategy.

What if a meteor came down out the sky and hit your business? Long shot I know...

What if the Natural gas pipeline near your business exploded?

What if the water pipe above your server rack leaks or bursts?

Having a DR plan is crucial to the success of healthcare and business.

The easiest way to get a DR plan started is to get your data somewhere else. HealthNet connect|BroadNet connect will assist you with setting up your DR strategy. Now that you have the fiber pipe, you can back up your data to the cloud immediately. In the event of a disaster you will also have the capability to bring the servers online from our datacenter to speed up the process of bringing your business back online.

There is another benefit to cloud backup. Security. No longer do you have to take backup tapes off site. No longer is there a risk of that tape being misplaced or stolen. Our cloud backup solution is encrypted in transit and the data is located in a secure datacenter.

For additional information, please visit www.HealthNetconnect.org.

Follow us!



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