Mount Sinai PPS
Health Information Exchange FAQ

WHAT IS A HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE (HIE)?

A health information exchange (HIE) enables sharing of patient information across service providers in support of population health initiatives, better communication among healthcare practitioners, and better coordination across the continuum of a patient's care to achieve the highest quality patient outcomes. Some of the services offered by an HIE are:

- Consent management
- Patient record lookup functionality
- Patient matching (MPI)
- Clinical event notifications
- Secure messaging

WHAT IS A REGIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION ORGANIZATION (RHIO)?

RHIOs provide a mechanism for broad-scale health information exchange within a particular geographic region. In New York State, the RHIOs also represent a pathway to the data aggregated from all of the sources feeding the State Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY).

More information about RHIOs can be found at http://www.nyehealth.org/shin-ny/qualified-entities-qes/.

WHAT IS THE STATEWIDE HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK OF NEW YORK (SHIN-NY)?

The SHIN-NY is described by its governing body as a "network of networks" that enables data sharing between the RHIOs. Eventually the SHIN-NY functionality will allow patient data to be securely shared between providers across the entirety of New York State.

For more information about the SHIN-NY please visit http://www.nyehealth.org/shin-ny/what-is-the-shin-ny/.

WHAT IS THE DSRIP REQUIREMENT FOR CONNECTING TO AN HIE/RHIO?

New York's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program is an unprecedented opportunity to transform the State's delivery system. **The program promotes community-level collaborations and specifically identifies bi-directional data sharing as part of that collaboration, particularly through an HIE, RHIO and/or SHIN-NY.** As part of this requirement, certain safety net partners in the PPS are expected to connect to the RHIO as a requirement of their participation in DSRIP.

This is especially evident in Project 2.a.i (Create Integrated Delivery Systems that are Focused on Evidence-Based Medicine/Population Health Management), which requires the involvement of all providers within the PPS network and aims to create an integrated, collaborative, and accountable service delivery structure that incorporates the full continuum of care.

WHAT IS MOUNT SINAI'S RECOMMENDATION FOR HOW I SHOULD CONNECT TO AN HIE?

As part of our continuous efforts to streamline, collaborate, and leverage existing State-wide investments, the Mount Sinai PPS conducted a detailed review of potential models for partner HIE engagement. **Based on the findings of this assessment, the Mount Sinai PPS recommends that all partners engage with Healthix as their primary RHIO.**

By aligning with Healthix for our primary HIE solution, partner connectivity will be simplified, particularly for those engaging in more than one PPS within the Mount Sinai service area, and for partners who are already connected to Healthix. Creating a unified strategy that leverages the RHIO—a community-based solution supported by the State—allows us to keep the barrier to entry for partners as low as possible.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN MY ORGANIZATION CONNECTS WITH HEALTHIX?

Each individual partner will enter into an agreement directly with Healthix, and the connection process will be managed jointly by the partner and Healthix.

By agreeing to connect to Healthix, each partner will need to bear the costs of connection, any one-time or ongoing fees that the partner's EHR vendor may require for enabling and/or supporting HIE functionality, and any costs related to implementing the Healthix solution, such as analysis of data required by DSRIP clinical projects, or custom work that the partner deems necessary.

A portion of these costs will be offset by DSRIP funds the partners receive from Mount Sinai PPS based on their successful performance.

WHAT IF I DID NOT SIGN A DY1 CONTRACT WITH MSPPS? SHOULD I STILL PURSUE CONNECTION THROUGH HEALTHIX?

Yes, it is recommended that you pursue connectivity via Healthix even if you did not sign a DY1 contract with the PPS. Connecting with Healthix will serve as a foundation for moving forward in DY2 should you elect to formally contract with the Mount Sinai PPS in the future.

HOW CAN MOUNT SINAI PPS ASSIST?

The final responsibility for ensuring that data elements (and the operational processes required to collect these data elements) being shared between Healthix and the partner to support meeting DSRIP requirements lies with the partner and Healthix and is governed by the agreement between those parties. That being said, Mount Sinai PPS will provide guidance and some suggestions for basic points that should be included in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the partner and Healthix. The PPS team will also provide specifications regarding the data elements that need to be shared to meet DSRIP requirements to assist in your project planning with Healthix.

DO I HAVE OTHER OPTIONS?

Based on our analysis of HIE options overall, we **strongly** recommend that partners engage with Healthix as their primary HIE provider. Healthix is the largest Regional Health Information Exchange (RHIO) in the state of New York, with deep experience assisting healthcare providers build solutions to transform healthcare through better communication and care coordination. We are confident that working with Healthix will support both the care coordination and data exchange needs of the PPS, as well as provide overall support to your organization/practice.

If a partner chooses to forego this solution, the partner will be asked to submit a justification to the DSRIP PMO. If approved by the DSRIP PMO, the MSPPS IT team will conduct an assessment of the partner and propose viable alternatives. Please note that the time and effort required to complete this assessment may impact ability to meet project deadlines.

Please contact HIEquestions@mountsinai.org in the DSRIP PMO if you require the justification form.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE AN ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM?

Both Healthix and the Mount Sinai PPS IT team will work with your organization to help find a solution to ensure that requirements for data sharing are met. Organizations needing this type of assistance will be identified through analysis of the IT surveys each partner submitted in 2015, and the PPS team will reach out to you directly.