

# The Role of Registries in RHIO Formation

Public health agencies have long used registries—computerized systems tracking segments of the population—to help manage preventative or chronic disease programs. Though these systems usually contain less data than a fully-functioning electronic medical record (EMR), they can provide the fundamental building blocks for a regional health information organization (RHIO) focused on health information exchange.

Many RHIOs struggle to identify a clear purpose and function around which they can rally support and pilot an implementation. A registry can be a powerful enabler for a RHIO, and public health agencies have significant experience deploying them. Participants often include a broad range of stakeholders relevant

to the RHIO effort: healthcare providers, health plans and managed care organizations, public health agencies, laboratories and pharmacies, and, of course, patients. Registries can provide a requirements framework around which a RHIO can be conceptualized and constructed.

## Benefits of a Registry

### TO PROVIDERS:

- ▶ Consolidated, patient-based data available at point of care
- ▶ Health data as well as health education data
- ▶ Decision support capabilities available through evidence based guidelines not typically available in an EMR
- ▶ Practice-based metrics to track improvement of care
- ▶ Web interface can be useful to providers without an EMR of their own
- ▶ Reminder/recall capabilities to help manage preventive care

### TO PATIENTS:

- ▶ Direct access to personal health information
- ▶ Direct access to health education information, including eligibility
- ▶ Opportunities to enroll in personal health classes and interventions
- ▶ Reminders from providers about necessary follow-up and other activities
- ▶ Better coordination of care among specialists and primary care provider

### TO PUBLIC HEALTH:

- ▶ Population-based database for epidemiological studies
- ▶ Reports for research, outreach, and disease management
- ▶ Identification of sub-populations for particular focus
- ▶ Enables surveillance with provider, lab, and pharmacy data

### TO HEALTH PLANS, INSURERS, MCOs:

- ▶ Population-based information to enable pay-for-performance

### TO RHIOs:

- ▶ Focused, manageable sets of data for pilot projects
- ▶ Initial systems, processes, and governance already in place

#### Find out more about registries from:

American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA)  
[www.immregistries.org](http://www.immregistries.org)

California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF)  
[www.chcf.org/topics/chronicdisease/](http://www.chcf.org/topics/chronicdisease/)

Improving Chronic Illness Care (ICIC)  
[www.improvingchroniccare.org](http://www.improvingchroniccare.org)

Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII)  
[www.phii.org](http://www.phii.org)



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