

Galveston County Health Information Exchange

Merged under Greater Houston Healthconnect Health Information Exchange

Scope

The Galveston County Health Information Exchange (GCHIE) clinical data repository was developed and tested by UTMB as a web-based “community health record” that stores patient information for uninsured and/or underserved patients to be utilized by partner medical providers in making patient care decisions. The goal of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) was to enable partnered medical providers in Galveston County to share patient data through a common infrastructure without requiring all partners to employ the same electronic medical record system. Patients give permission for their data to be “shared” or viewed by end-users after signing an authorization form. Further development of this initiative was put on hold as Texas outlined its plan for a state-wide HIE. A collaborative agreement was reached between the Greater Houston Health Information Exchange and the GCHIE which leveraged the resources and enabled a regional HIE.

GCHIE Clinical Data Repository is Designed to Contain the Following Data:

- Patient information & demographics
- Encounter information
(*treatment location and type of service*)
- Attending / treating physician
- Medications
- Diagnoses
- Lab information
- Patient authorization forms with dates
(*viewable via PDF in GCHIE*)

Original GCHIE Partner Organizations

(Currently committed to Greater Houston HIE)

1. University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
2. The Gulf Coast Center (MHMR)
3. St. Vincent’s Nurse Managed Health Clinic
4. Galveston County Health District (GCHD)
5. Mainland Medical Center

Progress to Date

- January 2011 - GCHIE applied for the Local HIE Grant Program to cover Galveston County with 752 physicians and 2 hospitals and Brazoria County (partial) with 100 physicians and 1 hospital for a total award of \$285,600 for the implementation and operations plus an additional \$75,000 for planning. A UTMB commitment letter for 642 physicians and 1 hospital was submitted with the grant application.
- Commitment letters from Gulf Coast MHMR and Galveston County Health District were included and added an additional 8 physicians giving GCHIE at total of 650 physician commitments of the total 752 (86%) Galveston County physicians.
- March 2011 - Texas HHSC granted Galveston County HIE \$75,000 to plan and prepare a Business & Operational Plan to HHSC for approval.
- April 13, 2011 - Greater Houston HIE Board of Directors entered into a collaborative agreement with the Galveston County HIE, with the intent to merge/assign Galveston County HIE’s award to Greater Houston HIE. This increased their total commitment percentage from both regional physicians and hospitals.
- April 26, 2011 – UTMB demonstrated the Clinical Data Repository system to members of the Greater Houston HIE and Montgomery County HIE. Both HIEs assessed UTMB’s CDR system for use in their overall HIE structure and expressed interest in purchasing the system.
- July 2011 – GCHIE dissolved their governing structure and all existing partners agreed to pledge their physicians’ commitments to GHHIE. The original GCHIE partnership continued to meet as an “unofficial group” to collaborate and discuss local HIE strategic interests.
- Galveston County has two seats on the Greater Houston HIE Board of Directors. One from UTMB’s executive leadership team as well as a key philanthropist from the area. Galveston County HIE members and UTMB staff participate on the Greater Houston HIE Strategic Advisory Board, Technical/Architecture & Privacy/Security Work Groups.
- In January 2012, HIE SouthEast Texas joined Greater Houston Healthconnect that includes a service area of 16 hospitals and 650 physicians, in Jasper, Jefferson, Hardin, Newton, Orange and Tyler Counties.
- Greater Houston HIE changed its name to Greater Houston Healthconnect which now covers a 20-county region with a total of 133 hospitals, more than 14,000 physicians and a population of nearly 7 million people. Healthconnect represents the largest HIE market area in Texas.