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Rochester RHIO Publishes Pioneering White Paper on Cross-Sector Data Exchange

Provides a Comprehensive Framework to Examine One of the Most Exciting and Challenging Advances in Health IT

Rochester, NY—October 2, 2019—Rochester RHIO has commissioned a pioneering white paper that serves as the nation's most comprehensive analysis of the opportunities and issues associated with cross-sector data exchange. Now publicly available, *Cross-Sector Data Exchange: Data Use and Legal Privacy* provides a framework that examines the legal challenges surrounding the expanded sharing of information to benefit patients.

The paper can be downloaded in its entirety at <http://bit.ly/rhiocrssec>

Legal complexities and sensitivities to sharing personal data require careful study. During this thoughtful examination of education, social services, and healthcare privacy laws, the Cross-Sector Data Exchange research examination concludes that some data, but not all data, can be shared between education, social services, and healthcare providers.

Such exchanges can be vital for individuals who have complex and chronic conditions, and people whose health is impacted by social determinants. A person's ability to be healthy often depends on factors such as employment status, education, and living environment—all of which can impact a person's ability to have access to healthy food, transportation, and health care.

In many cases, data generated relating to those factors have remained siloed, without the ability to affect more informed policy and clinical decisions.

Rochester RHIO, a leading health information exchange (HIE) in the country, is enabling connectivity with community-based organizations beyond traditional health care segments. Serving the 14 counties in the greater Rochester region, Rochester RHIO has expanded from hospital and physician practice-specific data sources to include nearly 300 community based organizations. Services include housing, transportation, employment search and training, healthcare coverage, counseling and emotional support, food resources, childcare, and educational resources.

"Our work in this area is making it possible for community members to receive vital and enhanced continuity of care, including aligned critical services from an expanded group of partners," says Jill Eisenstein, president and CEO Rochester RHIO. "Working together, we can improve the health of so many in our region and provide a roadmap for similar initiatives across the nation."

The legal white paper provides the region with a road map to support authorized RHIO users, researchers and funders in utilizing this more comprehensive data in an effort not only to improve the quality and efficiency healthcare delivery, but also to understand the economic, environmental, and policy barriers to good health.

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About Rochester RHIO

Rochester RHIO is a secure electronic health information exchange (HIE) dedicated to serving New York's Greater Finger Lakes region, including Monroe, Allegany, Cayuga, Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties. Its suite of services allow health care professionals to securely and rapidly share records across institutions and practices, making patient information available wherever and whenever needed to provide the highest quality care. Patients benefit from fewer repeated tests, missing records and errors, while receiving more informed care during office visits and emergencies. RHIO's health information exchange process more than seven million clinical messages a month for 1.4 million residents. RHIO is a Qualified Entity of the Statewide Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY). For more information, visit RochesterRHIO.org or 877-865-RHIO (7446).