



State of the State Address Fact Sheet: **Electronic Health Records**

“We must also bring our health care system out of the digital dark ages. In 2008, there is no reason that we cannot have secure electronic health records, whether on a card or online. Old paper records that are hard to find and hard to transfer are no way either to provide good care or to control costs.”

- Governor Eliot Spitzer (January 9, 2008)

The Challenge

- The use of electronic health records – which provide individuals with the ability to access their individualized health care information whenever and wherever – has been proven to improve the quality and efficiency of care while reducing health care costs and medical errors.
- Physicians using electronic health records scored 18% higher on quality measures than physicians without the technology. Medication errors without the use of technology may be as high as 100 errors per 1,000 cases.
- Currently, the physician adoption rate for electronic health records is low – 18% in 2006, and even lower in solo and small physician offices at only 8%. Hospital rates are low too. Only 11% of hospitals that responded to a 2007 American Hospital Association survey reported a fully implemented electronic health record system.
- One study reported a 70% improvement in patient satisfaction when providers used an electronic health record, which improved the availability of clinical and patient information.

Our Approach

- The Governor has charged the Department of Health with developing:
 - A public-private partnership to facilitate a statewide, collaborative process regarding health IT initiatives;
 - A standards-based interoperable system to advance the widespread adoption of electronic health records; and,
 - Policies to protect patient privacy and strengthen information security.
- The Department of Health will award over \$100 million in 2008 as part of the HEAL NY Health IT grant program to advance community-wide electronic health record adoption. The funding is part of the Administration’s efforts to transform from a paper-based system to an electronic interconnected system through funding from the HEAL NY and F-SHRP programs.