



Massachusetts  
Health Data  
Consortium

**June 2022 Newsletter**

We have a lot going on at MHDC. We are building a strong event roster focusing on equity, interoperability, public health, interviews with health leaders, and other topics of interest to our community. Our data governance and exchange services are providing insights and education to our members and advancing automation in prior authorization to reduce the burden it imposes on patients, providers, and payers. We will soon release our latest version of Spotlight, our analytics service, that will include the Lown Institute's measures of equity, quality, and low-value care. We also have several initiatives that are in their early stages, and we'll share more about those when they're ready for primetime.

One of our top priorities has been to add a skilled and experienced marketing and member management executive to our team to help us get the word out about all the good work that we are doing and to make it as easy as possible for more organizations and individuals to join the MHDC community and benefit from this good work.

I'm very pleased to announce that we have succeeded with Katie Klossner joining MHDC. For over 20 years, Katie has been a leader in community relations, marketing, communications, and fundraising for many different industries including health services research, senior living, libraries, schools, online language learning, ebooks, and educational publishing. Katie earned her BA from SUNY Potsdam, her MFA from West Virginia University, her Masters in Public Administration from CU-Denver, and is a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP). Originally from New York (Long Island and the Adirondacks), Katie lives in Colorado where she enjoys hiking, skiing, and spending time with family. Her youngest daughter is heading off to college this Fall to study nursing and Katie is a very young grandmother to 8.

Please join me in welcoming Katie at [kklossner@mahealthdata.org](mailto:kklossner@mahealthdata.org)!

Denny Brennan, Executive Director

## Follow Us

Be sure to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for live tweeting during industry webinars, insights on relevant news, and our take on interoperability, data, health equity, telehealth, APIs, and other topics of interest!



## Upcoming MHDC Events & Webinars

Click below to register - space is still available!

June 8, 3-4:30pm

DGC Steering Committee (*members only*)

June 8, 15, 29, 11am-12:30pm

DGC Working Group (*members only*)

June 9, 10am

[How Health Systems are Leveraging Health IT to Improve Their Performance](#)

Robert S. Rudin - RAND Corporation

(*free - open to the public*)

June 22, 2pm

[What Patients Are Saying: Insights About Primary Care From MHQP's Statewide Patient Experience Survey](#)

Barbra G. Rabson, MPH, and Amy Stern, PhD - MHQP

(*free - open to the public*)

June 23, 2pm

[DGC Deep Dive: Allergies](#)

(*free - open to the public*)

July 14, 11am

[What it Looks Like to be Done with Healthcare Transparency](#)

Matt Parker and Keith LoMurray - HealthSparq

(*free - open to the public*)

July 28, 10am

[Discernment in a Digital Health Gold Rush](#)

Jessica Zeaske, PhD - Echo Health Ventures  
(free - open to the public)

Missed any of our webinars in 2022? Click **HERE** to see what you've missed!

Interested in sponsoring a MHDC webinar or have an interesting topic you'd like to suggest? Contact us at [webinars@mahealthdata.org](mailto:webinars@mahealthdata.org)

## **DGC Update**

The Data Governance Collaborative (DGC) at MHDC is a collection of payers and providers throughout the region exploring ways to better exchange health-related data incorporating industry standards and automation as much as possible.

The next DGC Deep Dive on Allergies will be on Thursday, June 23 from 2-4pm. We'll look at FHIR, USCDI, and US Core support for allergies, how people are collecting and using allergy information now, what other allergy data and exchange they'd like to see in the future, and more. The event is public - please join us! You can register [HERE](#).

Regulations are still a priority in our working group meetings; we recently reviewed Massachusetts DOI draft regulations covering telehealth and provider directories - the provider directory requirements are extensive and quite a bit more involved than any we've seen elsewhere. We also continue to attend industry events and report back to the group. We most recently dug into content from days 3 and 4 of the ONC Annual Meeting; a detailed look at the WEDI Spring Conference held at the end of May is up next.

We've also been exploring several special projects with our Steering Committee and lending our expertise to some external projects run by others - watch this space for more information as these projects progress.

Participation in the DGC is open to any payer or provider with business in Massachusetts - big or small, general or specialist, traditional or alternative. Want to know more? Email [datagovernance@mahealthdata.org](mailto:datagovernance@mahealthdata.org)

## **Spotlight Analytics Update**

Spotlight Business Analytics helps healthcare organizations run custom analytics on health data including market share, patient origin, disease prevalence, cost of care, and comparative costs and outcomes for acute care hospitals.

We are partnering with the [Lown Institute](#) to add civic and care leadership measures to Spotlight. Augmenting Spotlight's market share, disease prevalence, and demographic analyses with the Institute's equity, value, and outcomes measures will

provide Spotlight subscribers with a more comprehensive, robust, and relevant view of health system performance.

We are in the process of adding the Lown data to Spotlight and creating new layouts and reports to help users better understand the data. We will schedule our next user's group meeting once this data is available.

The current data status is:

Coming Soon:

- Massachusetts Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data FY21
- Massachusetts Emergency Department Visit Data FY21
- Massachusetts Observation Data FY21
- Rhode Island Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data FY21

Loaded & available for use:

- Massachusetts Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data FY20
- Massachusetts Emergency Department Visit Data FY20
- Massachusetts Observation Data FY20
- Rhode Island Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data FY20

Received & ready for use soon:

- Lown Institute measures

Future planned data:

- New Hampshire Facility Discharge Data Sets (Application pending)
- Maine Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient Data (Application pending)

Please feel free to visit our [Spotlight Business Analytics page](#) or email us with any questions or comments at [spotlight@mahealthdata.org](mailto:spotlight@mahealthdata.org).

## **NEHEN Update**

[NEHEN](#) reduces administrative burden through the adoption of standardized transactions. It is a cornerstone service for payer and provider trading partners wishing to exchange industry standard X12, HIPAA compliant transactions in a real-time, integrated manner using APIs. Because of our unique governance, non-profit status, and membership-based model, NEHEN is able to offer very competitive services relative to the market. Working with members and trading partners, NEHEN is also supporting a prototype electronic prior authorization (ePA) implementation

that automates transactions using industry standard, open platform methods developed by the HL7 DaVinci Prior Authorization workgroup.

NEHEN participated in the spring Trizetto Client Advisory Board (CAB) meetings. Areas of focus included: attachments for claims, claim status inquiries and advanced claims follow up, patient engagement, eligibility insights and prior authorizations, and the No Surprises Act. We covered these meeting discussions as well as other industry news during the June Business User's Meeting.

On the ePA front, we conducted the first of four planned meetings of The Automation Advisory Group (colloquially known as TAAG) in conjunction with our partner the Network for Excellence in Healthcare Innovation (NEHI). We had broad industry participation from payers, providers, vendors, the Health Policy Commission, EOHHS, ONC, CMS, and other industry experts. In that call we discussed our plans to identify and recommend ways to advance the automation of prior authorization transactions between payers and providers over the next two years. We had good industry-wide discussion of the workflows, technologies, and challenges associated with this administrative simplification effort. Work on the prototype implementation we're facilitating between New England Baptist Hospital and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is also progressing.

For more information about NEHEN or ePA please contact us at [nehen@mahealthdata.org](mailto:nehen@mahealthdata.org).

## Event Overview: WEDI Spring Conference

The [WEDI](#) 2022 Spring Conference ran from May 23-26 (with an abbreviated schedule on the first day). It provided a view of the healthcare, health data, and health IT landscape with something of a focus on AI and machine learning as well as regulatory updates from CMS, ONC, and others.

Below, please find a brief overview of the daily sessions. **If you would like to receive our detailed report of the forum**, please email [newsletter@mahealthdata.org](mailto:newsletter@mahealthdata.org).

**Day 1** consisted primarily of sample sessions from a handful of WEDI working groups as well as an introduction to [FAST](#) (formerly an ONC project, now a FHIR accelerator), a short participatory session on maternal health outcomes, and a short overview of the HIPAA exception process and the ASETT Tool.

If **Day 2** had a theme it was AI with several sessions in whole or in part discussing AI, machine learning, predictive analytics, and bias in algorithms. Some sessions in the afternoon strayed a bit from the theme with a look at blockchain and a general update from [ONC](#) (there were also some sponsored sessions on other topics).

The day was bookended by sessions from ONC starting with a discussion of AI in healthcare, equity by design, data governance with AI, monitoring AI performance,

and more and ending with a general update from Steve Posnack, filling in for Micky Tripathi. In between there was a session on using AI to rebrand SDOH as structural determinants of health, a panel discussion on how AI is changing healthcare, a talk on emerging platforms including AI from our friend Dr. John Halamka at the Mayo Clinic, and a look at how blockchain is being used within healthcare.

**Day 3** primarily focuses on patient identity and on price transparency with a few forays into adjacent areas. The day started with a long session on the [CARIN Alliance](#)'s identity work with a later session exploring the FAST identity work (full disclosure: we were only able to watch the first half of the CARIN Alliance session). There were also several sessions on price transparency, including an update from the WEDI No Surprises Act Task Group followed by an update on price transparency from [CMS](#). The day ended with a look at new guidance on electronic payment mechanisms from CMS with help from a few others. There was also an update from OCR that we weren't able to attend but hope to watch later.

**Day 4** started with updates from the CMS Office of Burden Reduction and Health Informatics and from the CMS Innovation Center followed by a recorded discussion on decreasing maternal mortality rates, a discussion of California's data exchange efforts, implicit bias mitigation in AI, and finally updates from a variety of other standards organizations including X12, CAQH Core, Da Vinci, and NCDPD.

Overall, the WEDI Spring Conference was another successful event. While not every session was chock full of interesting and new information, many of them were. In particular, there was a lot more AI focused content than at many previous conferences which was nice. The amount of time CMS and ONC spent at the conference was also appreciated, particularly as there were plenty of updates about current and upcoming priorities and projects while still going deep on a few key topics like AI and value-based care. We hope you got as much out of this article as we did from the conference.

## Industry Events

June webinars and online conferences we recommend (they're free unless otherwise noted):

- [AHIP: Advancing Value-Based Payment Models in the New Physician Landscape](#): Jun 13, 1pm
- [Beckers: The end of fragmented care: Expert insights on digital transformation and the patient journey](#): Jun 14, 12pm
- [AHIP: Closing Health Equity Gaps in Well-Being by Addressing Financial Health](#): Jun 14, 1pm
- [ONC: SDOH Learning Forum](#): Jun 14, 1pm
- [WEDI: Industry Pulse Survey Results](#): Jun 15, 2pm

- [Beckers: How 4 systems are rethinking care delivery through automation](#): Jun 20, 1pm
- [AHIP: Data-Driven Personalization: 3 Approaches to Accelerate Your Member Strategy](#): Jun 27, 1pm
- [Beckers: Why You Need Privileged Access Management As Part Of Your IT Security Strategy](#): Jun 29, 1pm
- [AHIP: Results of a Year-Over-Year Study Comparing Industry Priorities](#): Jun 29, 2pm

We do periodically post webinars we plan to attend on social media, so feel free to follow us on Twitter ([@mahealthdata](#)) and [LinkedIn](#) for more webinar ideas and for our take on interoperability, data, health equity, telehealth, APIs, and other topics of interest.

## **Regulatory Deadlines**

Don't forget these upcoming health data exchange deadlines, including from ONC and CMS:

# 2022

JAN 1

- PAYER → PAYER EXCHANGE (OFFICIAL)  
NO SURPRISES ACT (NSA) ENFORCEMENT BEGINS
- EMERGENCY SERVICES CLAUSES
  - RULES AND PAYMENT MODELS FOR OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDERS AT IN-NETWORK FACILITIES
  - PATIENT CONSENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SIGNING AWAY OUT-OF-NETWORK PROTECTIONS FOR NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES
  - GOOD FAITH ESTIMATES FOR UNINSURED/SELF-PAY PATIENTS COVERING A SINGLE PROVIDER/FACILITY
  - DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR UNINSURED/SELF-PAY PATIENTS
  - EXTERNAL REVIEW ELIGIBILITY
  - GAG CLAUSE PROHIBITION
  - COORDINATION OF CARE CLAUSES (GOOD FAITH EFFORT)
  - INSURANCE ID CARDS (GOOD FAITH EFFORT)
  - PROVIDER DIRECTORY (GOOD FAITH EFFORT)
  - DISCLOSURES, EDUCATION, NOTIFICATIONS, AND PROMOTION (GOOD FAITH EFFORT)

APR 1

INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OF FEDERAL-STATE DATA EXCHANGE (OFFICIAL)

CURRENT

JUL 1

INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OF FEDERAL-STATE DATA EXCHANGE (ENFORCED)

PAYER PRICE TRANSPARENCY (ENFORCED, PRE-NSA)

OCT 6

INFORMATION BLOCKING USES EHI (NO LONGER LIMITED TO USCDI)

DEC 15

ONC ANNUAL REAL WORLD TESTING PLAN DEADLINE

DEC 27

NSA: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR PLAN AND PHARMACY DATA (ENFORCED)

DEC 31

PROVIDER FHIR APIS

# 2023

JAN 1

NSA: CONSOLIDATED GOOD FAITH ESTIMATES FOR UNINSURED/SELF-PAY CONTAINING ALL PROVIDERS/FACILITIES FOR A SINGLE SERVICE

MAR 15

ONC ANNUAL REAL WORLD TESTING RESULTS

DEC 31

FULL EHI EXPORT SUPPORT

# TBD

- NSA: ESTIMATE AND DISPUTE CLAUSES FOR INSURED PATIENTS  
PAYER → PAYER EXCHANGE (ENFORCED)  
ELECTRONIC PRIOR AUTHORIZATION \*  
PAYER → PROVIDER APIS \*  
PAYER → PAYER EXCHANGE OVER FHIR \*  
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FEATURES IN EXISTING EXCHANGES \*

\* CMS RULE THAT'S CURRENTLY FROZEN

And that's it, folks. Loved it? Hated it? Have an idea for next time?

Send us feedback and suggestions at [info@mahealthdata.org](mailto:info@mahealthdata.org).



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