






Hospital Value Proposition

Why Hospitals Need Big Sky Care Connect

Disoriented patient with suspected overdose arrives in the ED who you have never seen before		Where can you quickly access information about this patient?
Complex patient with history of behavioral health issues is readmitted to your hospital		What has been happening with this patient since last seen?
Hospitalized patient is ready for transfer to a long-term care facility		What is the best way to coordinate this transition?

Since the passing of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Montana has worked to provide our communities with a statewide health information exchange (HIE) that promotes patient centered care and enhances providers' ability to give informed, quality care through interoperable and actionable services. Montana's newly formed statewide HIE, Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC), is fully endorsed by Governor Bullock with new commitments from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) with 90/10 funding support. The BSCC HIE:

-  Delivers a robust solution with secure and reliable connections to healthcare organizations across the State.
-  Enables efficient communication and coordination of quality care across disparate multidisciplinary teams.

Like HIEs across the nation, BSCC is driven by its stakeholders comprised of patients, providers, State and Federal entities, and support services representing the entire care continuum. Payors are also included as stakeholders through their contribution of clinically relevant claims data that provides comprehensive insight into the patient's healthcare journey. Payor access is limited to their eligible members and no financial or cost data is stored in the HIE.

The exchange of health information amongst healthcare providers is essential especially in light of the current challenges faced by the US health system. This quote from a patient summarizes the value of HIEs.

"Imagine a situation where you end up in the emergency room, alone and incapacitated. Your doctor pulls up your medical records and instantly has access to your current medications and allergies, medical history, emergency contact, primary care physician, specialists, even your religious preference. Now, your doctor has everything they need to know to provide you the safest and most appropriate care, even if you are hundreds of miles away from your home and regular health care. This is the future for Montanans through the Big Sky Care Connect HIE." – Emily Coyle, Missoula, MT

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Initial Implementation: Building the Infrastructure

Initial implementation is planned for Fall 2020. The critical components of the HIE infrastructure will be implemented during this phase along with key functionality that includes the following:

- Longitudinal patient record with bi-directional exchange of patient data following national standards
- BSCC ED Alerts – optimize ED utilization and length of stay and improve care of high-risk patients
- Medications history – access to pharmacy claims, Surescripts

What Will BSCC Participation Cost Hospitals?

There is no annual subscription fee or implementation fee for hospitals through September of 2021. Starting October 1, 2021, the hospital annual subscription fee will include a base fee on net patient revenue and a provider fee based on number of employed providers who bill for direct services.

What Are the Risks If I Do Not Join BSCC Now?

Without the support of Montana's hospitals, Montana will not be able to capitalize on the well documented benefits of a state-wide HIE.

- Montana patients lose the opportunity to receive the highest quality care through timely sharing of vital patient information.
- Montana would lose the investment already expended in the effort to get BSCC started and jeopardize the proposed sustainability plan.
- Recent rulings by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and CMS foretells a mandated participation in health information exchange for hospitals in the future.
- Hospitals risk paying for integration. BSCC is offering the benefit of a no-cost integration.
- Your organization would miss the opportunity to pave the way for future users, provide input on the HIE's utilization, create best practices, and have a voice in the future of the HIE in Montana.

Contact BSCC today to become an early adopter and leader in improved care, improved patient experiences, improved provider experiences, and lowering costs for all Montanans!

