



# The Exchange

 **BIG SKY  
CARE CONNECT**  
Montana's Premier Health Information Exchange

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## Upcoming Events

**October 19 - 22**  
**2020 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual  
Primary Care Conference**

**October 29**  
**Billings Community Roundtable**

**November 5**  
**BSCC First Annual Conference  
(virtual)**

**November 6**  
**Annual Board Meeting**



## SAVE the DATE

 **BIG SKY  
CARE CONNECT**  
Montana's Premier Health Information Exchange

**Creating Care Connections**  
**2020 First Annual Conference**  
*Virtual All-Day Event*

**November 5, 2020**

Join healthcare thought leaders and technology innovators and learn how our new statewide health information exchange will improve patient care for a healthier Montana. You will explore innovative ways to create care connections through enabling technology. Hear from the experts and your peers how the power of health information technology can facilitate collaborative, informed care.

**Register Now!**

**Welcome to Big Sky Care Connect!**

## Preparing to Launch!

The Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC) will be launching in the coming weeks bringing Montanans their statewide health information exchange (HIE)! We initiated the launch of BSCC at a roundtable discussion with Governor Bullock; Lenette Kosovich, Executive Director of Rimrock Foundation; John Felton, Yellowstone County Health Officer, President and Chief Executive Officer of RiverStone Health, and BSCC Board Chair; and Dr. Randy Thompson, Chief Medical Information Officer of Billings Clinic. The BSCC HIE will help to improve health outcomes and increased efficiency by creating a connected care community. John Felton put it best, "Montana is a small town with really long streets." BSCC is here to support our neighbors, family, and friends that are Montana's providers and patients. The BSCC HIE enables seamless sharing of real-time, comprehensive patient information and is the one connection healthcare organizations need to create a healthier Montana!

The BSCC First Annual Conference will be held on November 5th! Please mark your calendars and register by clicking on the link above. I hope to - virtually - see you there!

Follow BSCC on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube for more updates and information!

Jean Branscum, CAO  
Big Sky Care Connect  
jean@mmaoffice.org



## Gov. Bullock & the BSCC HIE announce upcoming go-live



On Thursday, October 2nd in Billings, MT Governor Bullock joined Jean Branscum, Acting Chief Administrative Officer of BSCC; Lenette Kosovich, Chief Executive Officer of Rimrock Foundation; John Felton, Yellowstone County Public Health Officer, Chief Executive Officer of RiverStone Health, and BSCC Board Chair; and Dr. Randy Thompson, Chief Medical Information Officer Billings Clinic in a roundtable discussion.

Governor Bullock supports the statewide HIE saying, "By sharing data, providers will be able to ensure that they're informed about their patients' status as they seek different services to promote patient safety and outcomes."

Due to the rural nature of Montana's landscape, the bridging of communities is vital to provide Montanans access to high quality care. The BSCC HIE network is the one stop shop to connect all of Montana's healthcare facilities to ensure provider and patients have up-to-date health information in real-time.

Bullock went on to say, "If we are going to ensure patients receive superior care and reduce burdening healthcare costs, we have to finally move into the 21st century and go beyond paper health records. A statewide health information exchange brings providers together to collectively use common sense and secure technology to improve health outcomes for Montanans."

The BSCC HIE network currently has 21 facilities that have signed to become a participant. Those facilities include Advanced Care Hospital of Montana, Allergy & Asthma Consultants of Montana, BigHorn Health Center, Big Horn Hospital Association, Billings Clinic, Cabinet Peaks Medical Center, Glendive Medical Center, Kalispell Regional Healthcare, McCone County Health Center, North Valley Hospital, Northwest Community Health Center, Prairie County Hospital, Mountain View Eyecare, PureHealth DPC, Riverstone Health, Roosevelt Medical Center, Rosebud Health Care Center, Shodair

Childrens Hospital, and Medicaid.

Initial onboarding and implementation of healthcare facilities will be covered but only until September of 2021! Reserve your spot in the onboarding queue by signing on today!

Check out BSCC in the local news:

[Billings Gazette](#)

[Montana Standard](#)



To learn more or to sign up contact BSCC at [information@mtbscc.org](mailto:information@mtbscc.org) or call 406-422-1078.

Full Press Release

The graphic features a blue background with a green header containing the Big Sky Care Connect logo. Below the logo are four circular icons: a hospital building, a nurse with a clipboard, a doctor with a stethoscope, and a shield with a cross. To the right, the word 'Participants' is written in large white letters, with the number '21' below it in a very large, bold white font with red radiating lines. Below the number, the text 'including Hospitals, FQHCs, Behavioral Health, Long Term Care, Specialty Clinics, & Payors' is written in white.

## Return on Investment with BSCC

Health information exchange has brought value to healthcare facilities around the nation. In many studies, we see how utilizing the HIE can reduce duplicative testing, reduce administrative burden, decrease adverse events, and decrease readmissions. Below are only a few examples of return on investment through participating in an HIE.

### Improve transitions in care

- CORHIO (Colorado) – PHI retrieval time decreased from **29 hours to 6 minutes**

### Avoid adverse events and enhance patient safety

- Decrease preventable adverse drug events and medication errors
- Improve medication reconciliation process
- Improve transition of care in sharing medication information

### Decreased Readmissions

- Reduced hospital average length of stay by **7%**
- Reduced 30-day readmission rates by **4.5%**
- Reduced the number of physicians seeing a patient during single visit by **20%**

### Coordinated Care Using Patient Event Notifications

- 30-day readmission rates **decreased from 29.5% to 26.5% after alerting was active**
- Estimated **costs savings** for avoided readmission attributable to event notifications was \$1.25 million among the study participants or ~ \$488 per hospitalized patient

### [References](#)

To learn more or sign up contact BSCC at [information@mtbscc.org](mailto:information@mtbscc.org) or call 406-422-1078.

## Vital Information When and Where it is Needed Most.

# BSCC Emergency Management

The opportunities for leveraging BSCC HIE functionalities in support of emergency management encompass daily emergency operations throughout the phases of disaster and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. When disasters or emergencies occur, patients are often receiving care from first responders and providers with whom they likely have not had prior experiences. Therefore, access to comprehensive patient records including allergies, medications, and problem lists, will improve the quality and continuity of care in adverse circumstances for Montanans. Supporting communities as the source of truth with critical, real-time patient data during a natural disaster and/or emergency preparedness situation is an ideal application for the many use cases of the exchange of health information that have been identified by BSCC.

### Emergency Management Use Case

## BSCC Webinar

### Big Sky Care Connect: Navigating Emergencies with HIE

BSCC is a valuable asset during emergencies for trusted, secure, and comprehensive patient information in real-time. In a crisis, displaced patients are at a greater risk of receiving inappropriate treatment due to limited access to longitudinal health records. The BSCC HIE functionalities can support providers and patients throughout the phases of disaster and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. Viewers will learn how BSCC will support Montana as the trusted and reliable source of comprehensive, real-time patient data during emergency situations, and see a live demo of ED Alerts, a BSCC value-added service to aid emergency departments.

[View Webinar](#)

## HIE Industry News



### Statewide health information exchange to launch in Montana

After five years of preparations, Gov.



### Montana Set to Launch Statewide Health Information Exchange

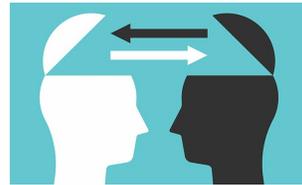
Montana's governor Steve Bullock

Steve Bullock and a Montana nonprofit organization announced a statewide health information exchange system that will launch later this fall. Big Sky Care Connect was designated by Bullock as the statewide...

[Read more](#)  
[billingsgazette.com](http://billingsgazette.com)

announced its statewide health information exchange (HIE), Big Sky Care Connect, will launch in fall 2020, according to the Montana Standard. Montana is currently one of two states without a ...

[Read more](#)  
[ehrintelligence.com](http://ehrintelligence.com)



## CO, AZ Health Information Exchanges Propose to Form...

Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO) and Health Current, an Arizona-based health information exchange (HIE), announced they are planning to join forces to create the most extensive regional HIE in the...

[Read more](#)  
[ehrintelligence.com](http://ehrintelligence.com)

### Interested in Joining BSCC

#### Health Facilities & Providers

Interested in participating in Montana's HIE to gain access to comprehensive patient information collected from payors and health care organizations across the State? Harness the power of health information by joining BSCC, Montana's premier statewide HIE. Contact BSCC today at (406) 422-1078 or email us at [information@mtbscc.org](mailto:information@mtbscc.org). BSCC was created through 90/10 grant funding and championed by leaders within Montana's healthcare community.

#### Patients

Become a part of the BSCC Network today by talking to your provider. If your provider's facility participates in the BSCC Network, then you are already in! Being in the network allows providers who are unfamiliar with your history to access to your health information – like during an emergency or when you change or are referred to another provider. Your participation is voluntary, and you can opt out at any time by requesting an opt out from your provider. If you do choose to opt out, first speak with your provider about the benefits or check out our website at [mtbscc.org](http://mtbscc.org) for more information. Montana's statewide HIE enhances the quality of care while empowering patients to play an active role in their healthcare.

[Contact BSCC](#)

*Harnessing the power of healthcare information to create health Montana communities.*



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