Four Years Later: Updated Perspectives on Health Data Utilities

October 2024

Where We Started



A New Approach

Recognizing both the power of HIEs in support of public health and the checkered success of past exchange investments, we recommend a new approach. The four following recommendations would see the HIE networks recast as health data utilities, eliminating the current information fragmentation that hinders our response to COVID-19—and ongoing support for public health in non-emergent times—while creating an infrastructure to enable the innovation of private enterprise.

Big things about the HDU Concept that have Advanced and Evolved Since 2020...

Unchanged Core Principles

- Every state should have a statewide HDU
- Not-for-profit (or possibly state-run)
- Multi-stakeholder governance
- HIE is the core of an HDU
- Every organization that thinks it is (or seeks to be) an HDU is on strategic journey that doesn't end

Advanced and Evolved

- National awareness and use of the term HDU
- How the concept can (and should) be applied strategic direction versus/and policy setting
- Debate over a consistent and precise (enough) definition

It isn't how you move the data, it's what you do with the data.

-- J. Marc Overhage, MD, PhD

He likes to Move it, Move it!



Using Data to do something different



Opportunities to Protect Patient Privacy

