

Case Study: HealthIE Nevada's Health Information Exchange at Work



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A Patient and Physician Success Story

HealthIE Nevada is piloting a patient consent and virtual health record HIE process in two clinics in northern Nevada. Terry L. McCaskill, M.D., recently had this situation occur after just a few weeks in the pilot.

A patient of Dr. McCaskill was admitted to the hospital for testing and surgery. After the patient began to experience some complications, which she assumed were due to the surgery the physician had performed, she called this physician to ask that she come to see her in the hospital.

Since the patient had given full consent for the physician to access her records via the health information exchange, the doctor was able to log in to a secure website, find the report of the patient's operation, all the result of her lab tests, and other tests that had been done during her hospitalization.

The physician was able to determine that the patient's complications were not related to the physician's specialty and was able to order a consult with another specialist. This all occurred within 10 minutes and did not require this physician to leave her office or to reschedule other patients' appointments – and avoiding delay.



Dr. McCaskill and her staff

This method of researching patient records was a positive outcome for the patient, as she got the correct referral in a timely manner for further care, and the physician was able to access the patient's health records and give an accurate diagnosis, without disrupting her schedule to see other patients in her office that day.

The treating physician noted that having the access to the real time patient records, "Was a positive experience. I see how this type of technology will be helpful in treating my patients."

For more information about the HealthIE Nevada's Health Information Exchange at work, please contact Beth Scully at bscully@healthinsight.org or 775-335-5121.