

Philip L. Powers

From: plpowers@hpio.net
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To: Philip L. Powers; SANFILJ@nationwide.com
Subject: E-prescribing story from HealthcareITNews.com

Kentucky health data exchange kicks off e-prescribing initiative
HealthBridge, a health information exchange operating in the Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky region, has launched its community e-prescribing application enabling physicians to send prescriptions electronically to area pharmacies.

The HIE hosted a demonstration Tuesday for Congressman Geoff Davis of Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District of the e-prescription application and how it shares clinical data.

"In a time when we are increasingly mobile and electronically-connected, it is a shame that medical records are still largely paper-based," said Davis. "With today's announcement and demonstration, I have seen firsthand how Northern Kentucky is leading the way for the rest of the nation. We are making it easier for doctors to have the information and the tools they need to give patients the highest quality care possible."

Davis recently voted to approve legislation that would provide incentives for physicians to use electronic prescriptions for Medicare patients.

"Healthcare providers in this region are on the cutting edge of a national movement to transform healthcare through the use of information technology and connectivity," said Robert Steffel, executive director of HealthBridge. "HealthBridge is excited to be able to facilitate this kind of secure information sharing that makes it easier to deliver the best possible care for patients at a lower cost."

Elysium Exchange, HIE technology developed by San Jose, Calif.-based Axolotl, is powering the HealthBridge exchange, delivering clinical data directly to ambulatory physician EMRs - building a complete patient record.

HealthBridge received a \$45,000 grant award from the Commonwealth of Kentucky to implement the e-prescribing application in Northern Kentucky. Three pilot practices - Cardiology Associates, Internal Medicine Associates of Northern Kentucky and Patient First Physicians Group - are working with HealthBridge to implement the new e-prescribing application.

"We have used HealthBridge for years to get test and lab information electronically," said Neal Moser, MD, a physician with Internal Medicine Associates of Northern Kentucky and the medical staff president at St. Elizabeth Medical Center. "We are looking forward to using e-prescribing and the medication history available through HealthBridge to improve care further for our patients."

Is your community developing a health information exchange? Tell us about your successes and challenges. Send your comments to Editor Bernie Monegain at bernie.monegain@medtechpublishing.com.

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