

MSSNY Health Information Technology Committee
January 13, 2023, 7:30-8:30 A.M.
Minutes

Present

Donald Moore, MD, Chair
Sal Volpe, MD
Renee Solomon, MD
Brian Blaufeux, MD
Deepak Buch, MD
Jef Sneider, MD
John Maese, MD
Munish Khaneja, MD
Philip Gioia, MD

Moe Auster, MSSNY Staff
Zina Cary, MSSNY Staff
Christie Doria, New York e-Health Collaborative Staff

The meeting commenced at 7:30 A.M.

Telemedicine Legislative Update – Moe Auster

Mr. Auster gave an update on NYS policies on telehealth and Medicare telehealth. Mr. Auster mentioned that NYS Legislature passed a law that required health insurers to pay at parity for telehealth services, and which will have a sunset of two years. Ms. Cary mentioned that a bill has been introduced by the Chair of the Senate Health Committee, Gustavo Rivera, to eliminate the “sunset”. Mr. Auster discussed that the CMS Medicare payment rule for telehealth coverage was changed so that, for audio only services, this flexibility will no longer be available 151 days after the public health emergency, which will be around August 2023. The members of the committee agreed that audio only telehealth coverage through Medicare is very important. Dr. Solomon and Dr. Sneider volunteered to provide a resolution to MSSNY for support of this coverage. A motion was made to support the continued coverage, it was unanimously approved.

Staff note – after the meeting, MSSNY staff shared an update that various telehealth flexibilities, including audio-only coverage, were extended until year end 2024 as part of the Congressional end of year omnibus bill.

There was a discussion regarding national recognition of medical licenses, including possible support for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Dr. Solomon, Dr. Maese, and Dr. Volpe mentioned that state licensure limitations creates barriers for healthcare, and telehealth access across state lines would be very beneficial. Dr. Solomon discussed federal legislation that would make it easier to provide care across state lines but did not require a state to enter the licensure compact. Dr. Moore suggested for some committee members to do research on this issue and report back, next meeting, with their findings. Dr. Solomon and Dr. Buch volunteered to work on this.

Burnout Related to HIT challenges – Dr. Donald Moore

Dr. Moore discussed the idea of receiving additional updated information on how the electronic health record interferes with physicians' health. Dr. Volpe suggested sending out an additional survey for more feedback. Dr. Sneider suggested that in the survey, they also ask about the benefits that have come from using electronic health records. The committee agreed that MSSNY should send out an update survey regarding physician burnout with EHR. The recent Physicians Foundation survey on burnout noting that 6 in 10 physicians had felt feelings of anxiety and anger was shared with the Committee, and that 89% reported that reducing "low value work, including reducing EHR clicks" would be helpful. Staff was asked to contact the Foundation to ask if the survey further "drilled down" into what specific types of clicks should be eliminated.

Update from the New York e-Health Collaborative – Christie Doria, Senior Manager, NYeC

New York e-Health Collaborative works with the Department of Health to lead the statewide health information network exchange for New York, also known as SHIN-NY. Ms. Doria stated that 100% of hospitals are connected and using the SHIN-NY. 77% of diagnostic treatment centers, 57% of physician practices, 78% of certified home health agencies, 88% of residential healthcare facilities, and 80% of hospice organizations are also using SHIN-NY. During the third quarter of 2022, over fifty-seven million alerts were delivered across the network and over six million records were retrieved. Ms. Doria stated that NYeC wants to work with practices and providers across the state and continue to receive feedback from users. Dr. Sneider asked about providing to Committee members and other physicians specific examples of the benefit of the state information network, which was provided to Committee members after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM.