

## **Health/Information Exchange**

KRM is supporting the WV DHHR in conducting a pilot Health Information Exchange. KRM is providing a standard network design and solution that is essential to facilitate the electronic sharing of patient data between treating health care providers.

KRM is utilizing open source technology that is compliant with the National Health Information Network (NHIN) Connect standards and incorporating the open source components currently available from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

CONNECT is a software solution that lets federal agencies securely link their existing systems to the NHIN. More than 20 federal agencies collaborated to build CONNECT through the Federal Health Architecture (FHA), and as a result, agencies are heading down the road toward interoperability.

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has been facilitating development of the NHIN, which will tie together health information exchanges, integrated delivery networks, pharmacies, government, labs, providers, payors and other stakeholders into a "network of networks." The NHIN provides a mechanism for previously disconnected systems and exchanges to connect to each other and share data using nationally recognized interoperability standards, specifications, participation agreements and policies. The ability to share data electronically among organizations will provide a wide range of benefits to citizens, among them: having up-to-date records available at the point of care; enhancing population health screening; and being able to collect case research faster to facilitate disability claims.

The CONNECT software is the outcome of a 2008 decision by federal agencies to begin work on connecting their health IT systems into the NHIN. Rather than individually build the software required to make this possible, the federal agencies collaborated through the Federal Health Architecture program to create a single solution that can be reused by each agency within its own environment. The agencies built CONNECT in open source in order to keep costs low when it is deployed in each organization. An additional benefit of developing the offering in open source is that CONNECT has now been made available to the healthcare industry at large. CONNECT will act as an accelerant to promote NHIN adoption and additional innovation in the industry.

KRM has been a contributing partner to the open source projects including developing the open adaptors to extract CCR/CCD data from open source Electronic Medical Records systems for transportation on the HIE.