

Project Title:	El Dorado County Safety Net Technology Project/Access El Dorado (ACCEL)
Principal Investigator:	Bergner, Gregory W., M.D., F.A.A.F.P.
Organization:	Marshall Medical
Mechanism:	RFA: HS05-013: Limited Competition for AHRQ Transforming Health Care Quality Through Information Technology (THQIT)
Grant Number:	UC1 HS 016129
Project Period:	09/05 – 09/09, Including No-Cost Extension
AHRQ Funding Amount:	\$1,491,985
Summary Status as of:	December 2008

Strategic Goal: Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to support patient-centered care, the coordination of care across transitions in care settings, and the use of electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of care.

Business Goal: Implementation and Use

Summary: The goal of this nearly completed project is to create a functional and sustainable health information exchange (HIE) connecting over a dozen facilities throughout El Dorado County. These include both private and public providers, and represent a diversity of practices, including a community health center and a tribally run clinic. This partnership is working to reach all patients, especially the underserved populations in this rural, northern California county. Through a confidential and secure HIE network, health care providers, with the appropriate patient permissions, will be able to access patient information no matter where the patient is treated in El Dorado County, whether the provider has an electronic health record (EHR) system or not. Aggregated, timely health data will be available to enhance public health surveillance, reporting, program management, and clinical/medical research. The project will enable El Dorado County to link to the California HIE when that exchange becomes functional.

Specific Aims

- Develop the governance structure and privacy protections needed to operate an HIE. **(Achieved)**
- Implement Care Pathways—stepped workflows, coordinated through a county-wide shared software application, developed to help un/under-insured residents locate resources and services to receive needed care for themselves and their families. **(Achieved)**
- Implement the Enterprise Master Patient Index (EMPI) for the county. **(Achieved)**
- Work with a vendor to develop and implement an HIE. **(Ongoing)**

2008 Activities: The Care Pathways technology was implemented in sync with the countywide privacy practices, policies, and procedures. The EMPI phase of the project went live successfully in 2008 with a pilot program. The groundwork has been laid for the HIE software implementation. Sustainability concerns continue to be considered and addressed.

Preliminary Impact and Findings: The ‘Medical Home’ Care Pathway has had a positive impact (decline) in non-urgent pediatric patient use of the emergency department. Reduced time per community health workers’ client case has occurred following implementation of Care Pathways. The Securing Health Coverage pathway has served over 3,000 clients, helping 96 percent find health coverage for their children. Further analyses of the data from Care Pathways are ongoing. Several valuable lessons have been learned in the course of health information technology implementation. The Privacy and Security Workgroup performed a thorough examination of privacy issues and legal rights, and as a consequence,

the ACCEL program has a patient permission structure countywide that takes into account privacy concerns while still encouraging participation in the HIE system.

Selected Outputs

Request for Proposal for HIE software vendors, detailing requirements and system specifications as developed by the Clinical Advisory Workgroup.

2007 HIE Business Case.

AHRQ 2008 Annual Conference presentation; September 2008; Bethesda, MD: ACCEL: Access El Dorado; Health Care Access That Works. Simpler. Better. ([PowerPoint® File](#), 1.3 MB; [PDF File](#), 230 KB; [Web Version](#)).

Grantee's Most Recent Self-Reported Quarterly Status: The project is mostly on track in its progress.

Milestones: Progress is mostly on track.

Budget: Spending is roughly on target.