

<b>Project Title:</b>	Colorado Connecting Communities – Health Information Collaborative State and Regional Demonstration Project (currently known as CORHIO)
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Davidson, Arthur, M.D., M.S.P.H.
<b>Organization:</b>	Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO) and University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
<b>Contract Number:</b>	290-04-0014
<b>Project Period:</b>	10/04 – 06/10
<b>AHRQ Funding Amount:</b>	\$5,000,000
<b>Summary Status as of:</b>	December 2008

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**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 Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO) is one of six AHRQ-sponsored State and regional demonstration (SRD) projects begun in late 2004 and early 2005 to create a non-profit health information exchange (HIE). Each of the SRDs is developed using a variety of approaches (e.g., technical, business, and governance models) in order to support data sharing and interoperability on a State or regional level; conduct analyses of the role of the Medicaid program; provide an evaluation of their project; and develop a sustainability model. The CORHIO SRD aims to build a prototype data exchange among four providers that will serve as a learning laboratory for identifying the architecture and policy issues that the community needs to address in order to establish a sustainable model. The four partners for the demonstration include Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Kaiser Permanente Colorado, the Children’s Hospital, and University of Colorado Hospital. The demonstration project does not contain a central repository. Instead, it holds a robust electronic Master Patient Index from which records can be matched and shared at the point of care. CORHIO and its partners “went live” with the demonstration on December 1, 2008. This system offers authorized emergency room practitioners at the four sites access to radiology reports (for the top 25 Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes [LOINC]-encoded), laboratory results (for the top 100 LOINC-encoded), prescribed and dispensed medication information, electrocardiogram (EKG) images and reports, registration information, and problem lists aggregated from all sites. Wherever Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel standards existed, they were incorporated into the architecture.

### Specific Aims

- Develop a novel exchange of lab and prescription drug data among four unrelated entities. **(Achieved)**
- Conduct an analysis of the role of the Medicaid program. **(Ongoing)**
- Conduct an evaluation to determine clinical impact. **(Upcoming)**
- Develop a sustainability model. **(Ongoing)**

**2008 Activities:** For the point-of-care demonstration project, 2008 activities included extensive development and testing of systems architecture across sites, development of a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-compliant security and audit framework using National Institute of Standards and Technology standards, development of protocols and procedures at the four

sites, and completion of the Master Data Sharing Agreement in collaboration with the four sites. Those four sites consisted of three hospital emergency rooms and one health plan call center accessing secure information.

The CORHIO SRD HIE went live December 1, 2008 for these four sites. Nearly 370 users were identified across these initial data-sharing partners.

Other CORHIO projects have included working with the State health department to provide a secure Web portal for bio-surveillance reports. This program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will demonstrate Health Level 7 (HL7, a protocol that allows health care computer applications to share clinical data) connectivity with the State's electronic immunization registry. CORHIO participated in the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC), focusing on consumer education and engagement, as well as adoption of standard policies, working with many other States. In 2008, CORHIO successfully secured funding to support Governor Ritter's Building Blocks for Health Care Reform as well as support from the Colorado Health Foundation and private funders to expand CORHIO activities across the State.

In both January and July 2008, this SRD joined fellow AHRQ-sponsored SRDs at two in-person meetings in order to share lessons learned and general information, to and discuss each SRD's upcoming project-specific deliverables, such as preparing evaluation and sustainability plans.

This SRD contributed to the Summer 2009 AHRQ-sponsored manuscript entitled, *Liability for Regional Health Information Organizations: Lessons from the AHRQ-Funded State and Regional Demonstration Projects and Other Community Efforts*, which will be available at [www.healthIT.ahrq.gov](http://www.healthIT.ahrq.gov).

**Preliminary Impact and Findings:** CORHIO is conducting a formal evaluation of the demonstration project that will review user experience, clinical outcomes, and system use. This evaluation will be completed in 2009, after approval from AHRQ and OMB.

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## Selected Outputs

In January and July 2008, this HIE participated in two in-person meetings with fellow AHRQ-sponsored SRDs to share lessons learned, share general information, and plan for upcoming project-specific deliverables, such as conducting evaluations and developing sustainability plans. Available at: Colorado Regional Health Information Organization, <http://www.corhio.org>. Accessed May 2009.

In late 2008 and onward, this HIE contributed to the AHRQ-sponsored manuscript entitled, *Liability for Regional Health Information Organizations: Lessons from the AHRQ-Funded State and Regional Demonstration Projects and Other Community Efforts*, [available online](#).

- Principal Investigator, Art Davidson, was appointed to the National eHealth Collaborative (AHIC Successor) & ONC HIT Policy Committee.
- CORHIO Executive Director, Phyllis Albritton, co-chaired two ongoing HISPC committees related to standards adoption and consumer engagement and education; Dr. Davidson also served on these committees.
- Ms. Albritton gave a presentation to the Colorado Health Information Management Association (CHIMA), May 15, 2008.
- Dr. Davidson gave a presentation to the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, December 17, 2008.
- Dr. Davidson gave a presentation to the National eHealth Collaborative – CORHIO Challenges, March 27, 2009.