

## 2. What is an HIE?

*"HIE is defined as the electronic transfer of clinical and/or administrative information across diverse and often competing health care organizations. In practice, the term HIE is often used both as a verb and a noun."*

*-- Health Information Exchange (2016), Edited by Brian E. Dixon, Page 5*

As stated in the quote above an HIE, or Health Information Exchange, facilitates the electronic transfer of clinical and/or administrative information such as between electronic health records (EHR) and laboratory information systems (LIMS), or a pharmacy information system and an EHR.

Different forms of HIE<sup>1</sup>:

HIE Type	Definition
Private	An interconnected affiliate-based health system, where exchange only occurs within a membership group (e.g. hospitals, physician practices, nursing homes, and some public health clinics operating as part of a larger corporation or 'health system').
Community-based	Exchange of data and information among providers that may be marketplace competitors or otherwise unaffiliated (e.g. academic medical center, large hospital system, group of federally qualified health centers). Competitors recognize that they are better served through HIE because of patient crossover, which can lead to repeating tests and procedures for patients receiving uncompensated care.
Government-facilitated	State governments or other publicly funded organizations acting as either a statewide HIO (Health Information Organization) or primary facilitator of HIE within state boundaries. Unique in that they typically operate at a technical level that supports a "network of networks".
Vendor-facilitated	A hybrid between Government-facilitated and Community-based HIE. This form of HIE is facilitated by an EHR system vendor such as the Cerner Corporation. Like the Government-facilitated form, the EHR vendor layers a set of HIE services on top of its EHR infrastructure, enabling its customers to send or receive information to other customers of that vendor's EHR system. And like the Community-based form, the vendor services enable exchange of information within hospitals and facilities outside a given integrated delivery network. However, unlike the Community-based HIE, the vendor does not typically facilitate the governance structure of the exchange; it simply provides a technical pathway for HIE.

<sup>1</sup> Health Information Exchange (2016), Edited by Brian E. Dixon, Pages 6-8.