



## Mass HIway Newsletter

July 2020

For more information, visit [www.masshiway.net](http://www.masshiway.net)  
Refer a colleague to sign up for the newsletter [here](#)

### Tufts Medical Center Spotlight Story



Floating Hospital at Tufts Medical Center is a full-service pediatric hospital within the Wellforce system, with a mission to improve the lives of children and their families. One of their frequent trading partners is Lowell General Hospital, a Circle Health affiliate. Lowell General Hospital is a not-for-profit community hospital that serves the Greater Lowell area and surrounding communities.

Floating Hospital needs to be able to communicate directly and securely with other Wellforce affiliates, including Lowell General Hospital, during transitions of care. Each hospital has its own electronic health record (EHR) system and records are not viewable by other affiliated organizations. To improve their transitions of care, the Floating Hospital piloted a new workflow with Lowell General Hospital's Maternal Medicine Department, incorporating health information exchange (HIE) through Direct Messaging.

Providers at Lowell General Hospital monitor the baby's heart rate during labor and delivery. If there are any concerns, the providers send a Fetal Link Report to Tufts for review to decide whether the mother needs to be transferred for more intensive care. This report is sent via Direct Message from Lowell General Hospital, which Tufts receives through their Mass HIway Connect Device. The message is then forwarded as an encrypted email to Floating Hospital's Labor and Delivery team for review. A provider at the Floating Hospital will assess the report and can reply using encrypted email back to Lowell General via Direct Message.

This new workflow has significantly improved the speed and clarity of information exchange between Tufts and Lowell General Hospital, offering better continuity and coordination of care during labor and delivery emergencies.

[Read the Full Story](#)

### Trading Partner Directory

Provider Directories are typically provided by HISP and EHR vendors and include all providers associated with the vendor. This list may include



providers your healthcare organization does not work with which may make it more difficult for your organization to find those providers your organization works with on a regular basis. A Trading Partner Directory is an internally created Provider Directory that includes only providers with whom the organization partners to provide patient care. A Trading Partner Directory allows providers to find the Direct Addresses of its usual trading partners more quickly. Where a Provider Directory is like the yellow pages, a Trading Partner Directory is like a contact list on a phone.

Over time, a Trading Partner Directory can become inaccurate if the directory is not kept up to date. A provider's Direct Address may no longer be active or may be incorrect, which can impact patient care. To learn how and why your organization should create and regularly maintain a Trading Partner Directory, and how Hlway Account Managers can assist, click [here](#).

## Attestation Deadline Extension

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) issued [Administrative Bulletin, AB 20-47](#) effective May 1, to give Provider Organizations additional time to meet submission requirements of the Mass Hlway Regulations (101 CMR 20). These extensions align with the recent delays issued by the federal agencies overseeing health information exchange. The following changes have been made:

- Attestation deadline **extended to December 31, 2020**.
  - The new attestation window will run from **August 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020**.
- Acute Care Hospital Year 4 fines **are waived**.
  - In 2019, Acute Care Hospitals were in Year 4 and were required to send and receive use cases using Hlway Direct Messaging by December 31, 2019. EOHHS is waiving fines for Acute Care Hospitals that did not meet this requirement. **However, these organizations are still expected to submit attestation or exception forms by December 31, 2020.**
- ADT Requirement extended to **January 1, 2021**.
  - Acute Care Hospitals will be required to submit ADT data to a Certified Event Notification Service (ENS) vendor by **January 1, 2021**.

[Read the full EOHHS Bulletin](#)

If you have any questions, email [MassHlway@state.ma.us](mailto:MassHlway@state.ma.us) or call 1-855-MA-Hlway (855-624-4929)

## Upcoming Webinars: Connection Requirements and Attestation

For 2020, the Mass Hlway Regulations (101 CMR 20.00) require all Acute Care Hospitals, Community Health Centers, and Large and Medium Medical Ambulatory Practices to connect to the Mass Hlway and demonstrate a health information exchange use case. These organizations were required to meet the connection requirement by January 1, 2020. **The attestation form will go live on August 1, 2020.** Organizations must submit an attestation form by December 31, 2020.

During this webinar, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the Hlway connection requirement and how to submit their attestation form online.

[Register Here](#)

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## HAUS Services

The [Mass Hlway](#) offers Hlway Adoption and Utilization Support (HAUS) Services to assist organizations in the effective deployment of HIE to enhance care coordination. There are three tracks available to receive HAUS Services:

- Healthcare organizations participating in MassHealth programs such as Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), Community Partners (CPs), and Community Service Agencies (CSAs);
- Provider organizations that need to meet the Hlway Connection Requirement per the Mass Hlway Regulations (101 CMR 20.00); and
- Healthcare organizations that want to use Direct Messaging to support care coordination between healthcare providers.

Organizations participating on any track will receive HAUS Services free of charge.

[Learn more about HAUS Services](#)

Visit the HAUS Services webpage to find valuable resources including informational webinars and HAUS project tools.

## HIT in the News



[Disease severity](#) is a main cause of duplicated EHR problem lists



[3 factors leading](#) to an increase of EHR inbox message volumes



[Digital behavioral health](#) startups score \$588M in funding amid COVID-19 pandemic



[Pilot](#): clinical digital assistant reduces EHR documentation time and burden for family physicians



[Top 4 disruptions](#) healthcare providers should prepare to address



[Medicaid needs](#) health IT infrastructure update for enrollment bump



[How to improve](#) data collection, exchange following COVID-19



[Considering EHR](#) documentation strategies in pediatric care

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