



Mass Hlway Newsletter

May 2019

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Refer a colleague to sign up for the newsletter [here](#)

Spotlight Story: Circle Health

Both Circle Health and Atrius Health are collaborations of physicians, hospitals, and other providers and organizations whose goal is to provide complete connected care in their respective communities.



Circle Health noticed that many patients seen at its affiliate Lowell General Hospital also received care from Atrius Health. They discovered that a significant amount of time was being used to fax discharge summaries and make follow-up phone calls to colleagues at Atrius Health. To streamline this inefficient process, Circle Health developed an alternative electronic workflow.

Now, when a patient is transferred from Lowell General Hospital to an Atrius Health medical practice, the Circle Health physician can create an electronic discharge summary document in their EHR and send it directly to Atrius Health via the Mass Hlway. Atrius Health physicians can access the received documents and distribute them to their case management teams, allowing for optimal post-acute care and follow up. This new electronic process largely eliminated the need to fax and call.

Because this new workflow successfully improved the transitions of care between Lowell General Hospital and Atrius Health, Circle Health expanded the workflow to additional affiliate organizations. This in turn improved the care coordination between many Circle Health facilities, as the physicians now have faster real-time access to needed patient health data.

[Read the full story](#)

2019 Connection Requirement

For 2019, the [Mass Hlway Regulations](#) (101 CMR 20.00) require all Acute Care Hospitals, all Community Health Centers, and all Large and Medium Medical Ambulatory Practices to connect to and use the Mass Hlway (Connection Requirement). These organizations must have met the Connection Requirement by January 1, 2019 and must submit an attestation to the Mass Hlway between **June 1 and July 31, 2019**. If a Provider Organization cannot meet the Connection Requirement, it must complete an Exception Form for review and consideration by the Mass Hlway.



Acute Care Hospitals are required to both send AND receive information over the Mass Hlway to support a provider-to-provider communications use case, and must submit their Year 3 Attestation Forms.



Large Community Health Centers and Large and Medium Medical Ambulatory Practices must either send OR receive as part of a provider-to-provider communications use case and submit their Year 2 Attestation Forms.



Small Community Health Centers are required to submit a Year 1 Attestation Form and use the Mass Hlway to support any qualified use case (provider-to-provider communications, public health reporting, quality reporting, OR payer case management).

The 2019 Mass Hlway Attestation Forms and Exception Form can be accessed [here](#). Please note that the PDF forms are for planning purposes only. Provider Organizations must attest using the online version of the forms, which will become available via this same link on June 1st, 2019.

Join the Hlway team for an upcoming requirements and attestation webinar. During this webinar, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the Hlway connection requirements and how to submit their attestation forms online. Presenters will also address commonly asked questions regarding the Attestation Form.

Webinar Date: Monday, June 10th from 12-1 p.m.

[Register here](#)

The following resources can help your organization implement a provider-to-provider communications use case with a trading partner and be prepared to meet this requirement going forward:

Webinar: HAUS for Providers Who Need to Meet the 2019 Connection Requirement

[Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)

Webinar: Mass Hlway Connection Requirement

[Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)

Webinar: Care Coordination using HIE and Mass Hlway

[Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)

For more information:

[Hlway Connections Map](#)

[HIE Toolkit](#)

[Hlway Adoption and Utilization Support \(HAUS\) Services](#)

The 2019 Mass Hlway Attestation Forms and Exception Form are now available [here](#). The PDF forms are for planning purposes only. All Provider Organizations must submit attestations using the online version of these forms (which will become available later this spring).

The HIT Council met on May 6th. Council members discussed the transition from paper-based queries (fax, telephone, etc.) to electronic Query health information exchange (HIE) and provided feedback on how to best leverage the Query HIE functionality offered by organizations such as CommonWell and Carequality. An update on the Market-led ENS initiative was provided, including a 2019 operational timeline. The Council also received a Hlway 2.0 migration update, including the planned May 31st shutdown date of Hlway 1.0. The Home for Little Wanderers presented its Hlway success story pertaining to automating the submission of the Child and Adolescent Needs (CANS) assessments to the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) program. The new workflow resulted in significantly reduced administrative time and decreased potential reporting errors.

[HIT Council Meeting Slides](#)

[Full CBHI Spotlight Story](#)

Hlway 2.0 Migration Almost Complete

The migration to Hlway 2.0 is almost complete. The anticipated shutdown for Mass Hlway 1.0 is **May 31, 2019**. Thank you to all the Mass Hlway Participants who have sent in the required forms and have successfully migrated or are in the process of migrating.

All Participants who have not yet migrated should have received notification of their impending disconnection date.

If you have any questions about the Mass Hlway shutdown date or any questions related to your organization's Mass Hlway connection, please contact Hlway2.0Migration@state.ma.us to request assistance from an Account Manager.

Process Improvement Workshops



Registration for the June workshop is full, but there's still time to register for September!

Join the Mass Hlway and the Massachusetts eHealth Institute (MeHI) for a free Process Improvement Workshop to improve Health Information Exchange (HIE), Meaningful Use (MU), or other clinical care practices. MeHI will present practical ideas for effective team-building, coaching, understanding perspectives and personality traits, facilitating process-mapping, and other process improvement and change management topics.

The goal of the workshop is to provide you with broadly applicable tools to improve your HIE and MU practices and workflows. The content is people- and process-oriented, and only touches lightly on technical aspects. You'll engage in discussions to share your own experiences, team-building activities to get to know the other participants, and hands-on exercises to select and address process challenges.

Organizations that must meet the 2019 Hlway Connection Requirement are encouraged to take advantage of the workshop to improve and streamline their HIE efforts. The workshop may also help you identify where the Connection Requirement criteria overlap with MU objectives or other quality improvement programs.

Each Process Improvement Workshop consists of **two in-person sessions** presented at MeHI's Weiss Conference Center in Westborough, MA. A light breakfast and lunch will be served.

The first session prepares you for the second, so we advise you to attend both sessions. We also encourage you to attend with multiple people from your organization.

September Workshop

Friday, September 13th 9:30am- 3:00pm and Friday, September 27th 9:30am- 3:00pm

[Register Here](#)

Useful Webinars

HAUS Services

[Hlway Adoption and Utilization Support \(HAUS\)](#) Services are provided by EOHHS through the Mass Hlway. The goal of HAUS is to help organizations implement HIE and leverage secure Direct Messaging to share healthcare information, such as discharge summaries, summaries of care, and referrals.

Target audience: Providers who need to meet the 2019 Hlway requirement, MassHealth Accountable Care Organizations, Community Partners, and Community Service Agencies.

[HAUS Services Webinar recording](#)

[HAUS Services Webinar slides \(PDF\)](#)

2019 Connection and Attestation Requirements

Learn about the specific connection and attestation requirements your organization will need to meet in 2019.

Target audience: Providers who need to meet the 2019 Hlway requirement. This includes all Acute Care Hospitals, all Community Health Centers, and Large and Medium Medical Ambulatory Practices.

[2019 Connection and Attestation Requirements Webinar recording](#)

[2019 Connection and Attestation Requirements Webinar slides \(PDF\)](#)

HIT in the News

FierceHealthcare
A FierceMarkets Publication

[Lawmakers](#) call for delay in implementing interoperability rules

HIT INFRASTRUCTURE
xtelligent HEALTHCARE MEDIA

[Rucker:](#) Healthcare interoperability stymied by contracts, IPR

Healthcare IT News

[Brightree extends](#) CommonWell connectivity to home health, hospice customers

EHR INTELLIGENCE
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[Health data](#) exchange jumps 49% among direct messaging users

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[AMA, AAFP](#) suggest reducing health
IT utilization measures in MIPS

[Organizations](#) see 878% health data
growth rate since 2016

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