

# The PHDSC Quarterly Standard E-Newsletter

Promoting Standards Through Partnerships

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## Standards for Public Health Data Exchange

The Consortium in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has been awarded a contract from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to engage public health community in collaboration with the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems vendors at the [Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise \(IHE\)](#), a collaborative of medical professional associations and EHR vendors. This project is built upon HRSA-funded PHDSC projects on the development of the functional requirements specifications (Functional Requirement Analysis Documents (FRADs)) for bi-directional electronic communication between clinicians and public health practitioners.

We will work with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to specify functional requirements for chronic care management and quality of care in diabetes and cardiovascular disease care. In addition, we will work with IHE in the area of newborn genetic screening. This work will inform the development of the IHE integration profiles (technical specifications) to be used by EHR vendors in building electronic health information exchanges.

## **Become a Member**

Learn about the [benefits of joining](#) and [become a member](#)

**Visit our new website  
at [www.phdsc.org](http://www.phdsc.org)**

PHDSC launched a new version of its website in July 2008. This new web-site includes not only a significant upgrade to the look-and-feel of the site, but will allow us to add substantial new features in the future. We hope the new website more fully describes our activities, members, and interests.

**Let us know what you think!**

Contact the Communications and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs with your comments:  
Noam Arzt <[arzt@hln.com](mailto:arzt@hln.com)>  
&  
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**Continuing Education in Public Health Informatics  
Training Program**

On September 9, 2008, the Consortium, in partnership with the National Association of City and County Health Officers (NACCHO) and the Association of State and Territorial health Officers (ASTHO) delivered the first in-class training in public health informatics for public health professionals as a part of a new Continuing Education in Public Health Informatics Training Program. The two one-day courses have been offered as a pre-conference event of the 2008 NACCHO-ASTHO Annual Meeting, Sacramento, CA as follows:

- **Introduction to Public Health Informatics**
- **Public Health in Health Information Exchanges**

About forty public health professionals have attended the training to learn about fundamentals in informatics and the role of public health agencies in electronic health information exchanges with their healthcare partners on the local, state and national levels.

Participants demonstrated an increased interest in public health informatics and the willingness to work with the Training developers to tailor the training to specific needs of public health practitioners.

**Share Your Successes  
& Lessons Learned  
with the  
Public Health Community  
on Health Information  
Technology Adoption in  
the next PHDSC Standard  
E-Newsletter Issue.**

Send your stories to  
Anna Orlova at  
[aorlova@jhsph.edu](mailto:aorlova@jhsph.edu)

**PHDSC at PHIN-O8**

The Consortium and its members actively participated in the 2008 Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Conference, August 24-28, Atlanta, GA.

We organized sessions on ***Privacy and Security in Public Health Information Exchanges; Public Health in Health Information Technology Standardization; and Biosense Program: Survey of Biosurveillance Operational Environments.*** We also conducted the ***Workshop on Continuing Education in Public Health Informatics.*** We would like to thank those who attended our sessions at PHIN.

You can find the audio records of our presentations at  
<http://cdc.confex.com/cdc/phin2008/webprogram/meeting.html>

**PHDSC 2008 Annual Business Meeting  
Hyattsville MD, November 12-13, 2008**

**Convened in Partnership with**

**Join Us at:**

**PHDSC Annual  
Business Meeting  
November 12-13, 2008  
Hyattsville, MD**

<http://www.phdsc.org/about/annual-2008.asp>

**the National Center for Health Statistics**

Join us to discuss with the national leaders the key issues in the development of the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) such as :

- ***Health Information Technology Standard Development & Harmonization***
- ***Privacy and Security of Health Information Exchanges***
- ***Electronic Health Information Exchanges***
- ***Professional Education in Public Health Informatics***

We will also discuss ***The Future of Public Health Registries.***

Go to <http://www.phdsc.org/about/annual-2008.asp> for the meeting agenda and registration.

Join us in defining the public health agenda in the national health information technology standardization efforts, so public health information system will be integrated in local, state, regional and nationwide health information exchanges under a NHIN.

**PRISM PHASE 2: EXPANDING OUR PRIVACY RESOURCES**

In June 2007 the PHDSC Privacy, Security and Data Exchange Committee unveiled PRISM, a comprehensive Tool for public health professionals that provides guidance on specific health information privacy issues. PRISM is a point-and-click web-based set of tables available at [http://www.phdsc.org/privacy\\_security/prism.asp](http://www.phdsc.org/privacy_security/prism.asp).

In January 2008, the Committee undertook the next phase of the PRISM project, to be completed by November, 2008. It includes:

- Updates of the current PRISM tables with additional information,
- New table regarding disclosures to public health entities,
- “PRISM Lite”, a document that summarizes the common rules applicable to selected types of health data and disclosures, and
- List of PRISM educational and outreach materials and approaches to improve awareness and use of the Tool.

The “PRISM: Family of Tools” are coming to the Committee web-site in late 2008/early 2009 at [http://www.phdsc.org/privacy\\_security/default.asp](http://www.phdsc.org/privacy_security/default.asp).

To join the Committee, contact Vicki Hohner, Fox Systems, Inc., [vicki.hohner@foxsys.com](mailto:vicki.hohner@foxsys.com), or David P. Lawton, Nebraska Health and Human Services, [David.Lawton@dhhs.ne.gov](mailto:David.Lawton@dhhs.ne.gov).