



# Maine's Health Information Exchange

Overview & Update on HealthInfoNet & the Statewide Health Information Exchange

*Dedicated to helping our communities create lasting system-wide improvements in the value of patient care.*

Shaun T. Alfreds  
Executive Director and CEO  
Email: [salfreds@hinfonet.org](mailto:salfreds@hinfonet.org)



# Our Company

About HealthInfoNet and the State of Maine's Health Information Exchange.

## WHAT WE DO

- Designated in law as operator of Maine's statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE)
- Maine law governs patient informed consent requirements for HIE participation (i.e., opt-out for general medical information and opt-in for mental health and HIV information)

## WHO WE ARE

- Independent nonprofit governed by a voluntary, community-based board of directors and advisory committees
- Board members represent medical providers, public health organizations, patients, government agencies, and businesses throughout the state

## HOW WE DO IT

- Provide a number of services to our participating provider organizations
- Examples: comprehensive electronic medical record systems, real-time event notifications, public health reporting, predictive analytics and measures, and much more





# About Health Information Exchange

The benefits of using HIEs in clinical workflows.

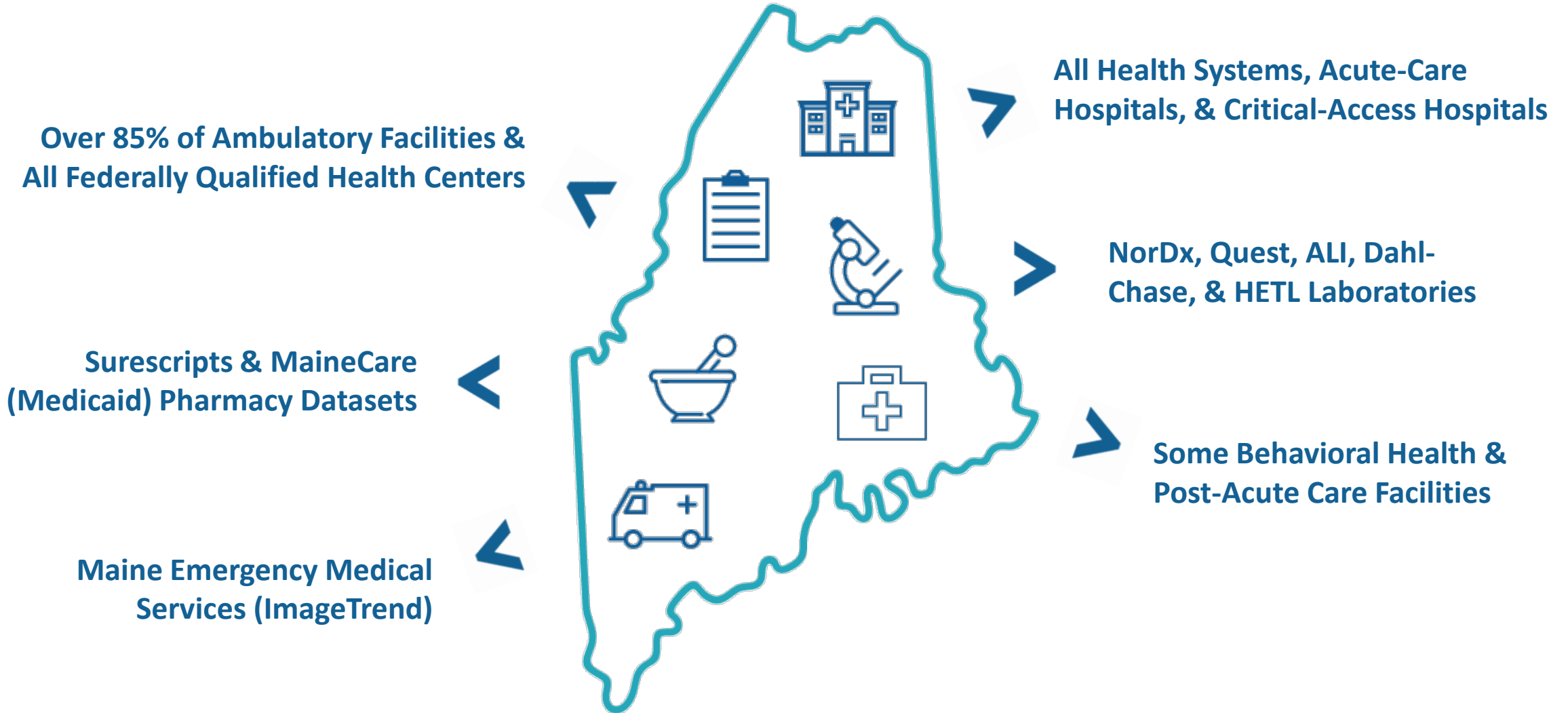
- HIEs are systems that combine information from separate health and medical record systems (e.g., EMRs) to create comprehensive electronic health records for patients; benefits include:
  - Informed decision-making
  - Efficient care coordination
  - Fewer medical errors
  - Improved patient safety
  - Fewer repeat tests and procedures
  - Less paperwork and less waiting
  - Efficient discharge and referral management





# Our Connections

Connected to more than 820 healthcare locations throughout the state.





# Our Clinical End-User Community


Helping Doctors, Nurses, Care Managers, and others make informed decision-making.




- **Registered Nurses**
- **Medical Assistants**
- **Medical Records & Referral Specialists**



- **Physicians**
- **Behavioral Health Clinicians**
- **Pharmacists**



- **Care Managers & Case Managers**
- **ED Staff**
- **LTC/SNF Staff**



- **Epidemiologists**
- **Infection Prevention Staff**
- **Quality Analysts**

# Our Numbers



## At a Glance (December 2020)

<b>1,730,598</b>	Number of Patients Included in the HIE
<b>1.41%</b>	General Medical Opt-Out Rate
<b>24,684</b>	Mental Health Opt-In Count
<b>61%</b>	HIE Organization Crossover Rate
<p><i>Crossover: The percentage of patients who visited unaligned treating facilities in the last 12 months.</i></p> <p>Top 3 HIE Crossover Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Light Health (65%)</li> <li>MaineGeneral Health (64%)</li> <li>Central Maine Health Care (64%)</li> </ul>	

	December 2019		December 2020	
<b>HIE Participants</b>	826		839	↑13
<b>Patients Accessed</b>	124,482		151,513*	↑22%
<b>Unique Users</b>	5,296		6,345*	↑20%
<b>Public Health Reporting (messages)</b>	962,449		1,152,668*	↑20%
<b>Real-Time Notifications</b>	50,936		47,347	↓7%

\* Denotes all-time HIE record



# HIE Services

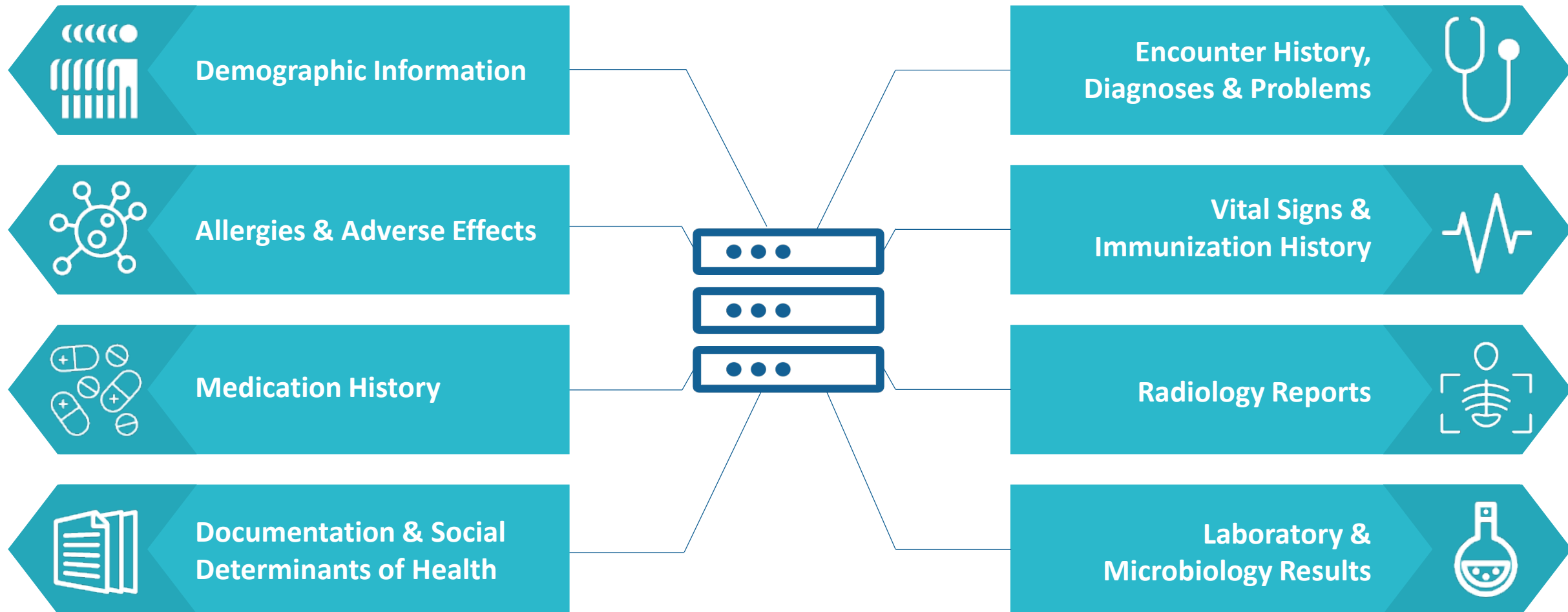
Overview of Services Available from the Health Information Exchange

*Dedicated to helping our communities create lasting system-wide improvements in the value of patient care.*



# Data Collection

Incorporating diverse data sources as new use cases emerge.

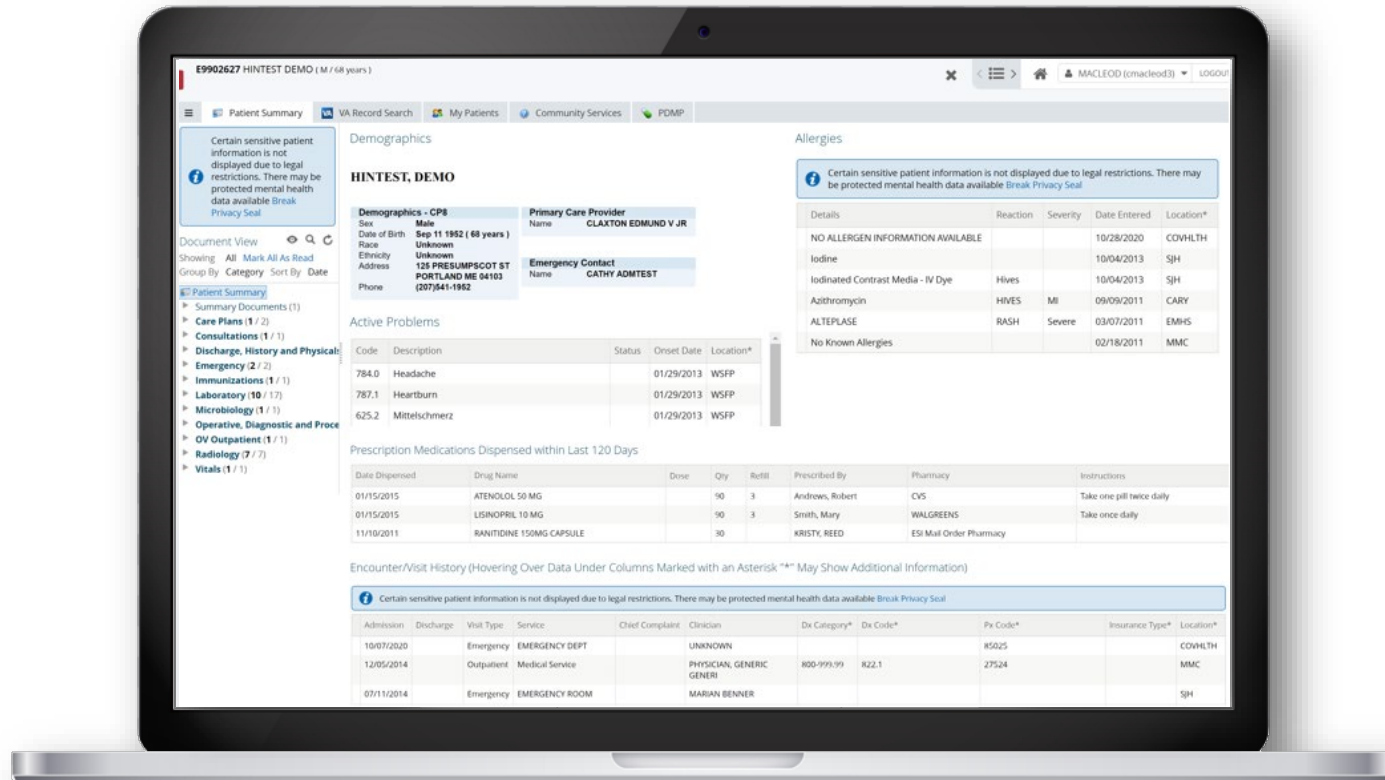






# Clinical Portal

Comprehensive HIE electronic patient health record system.



**CLINICAL PORTAL** – A web-based application enabling the secure look-up and retrieval of real-time patient health record information. Key features include:

## *Clinician/IS Support*

- Patient Lookup Services
- Patient Health Record Services
- Community Services Information
- Notification Services

## *Help Desk*

- User Lookup Services
- New User Request Function

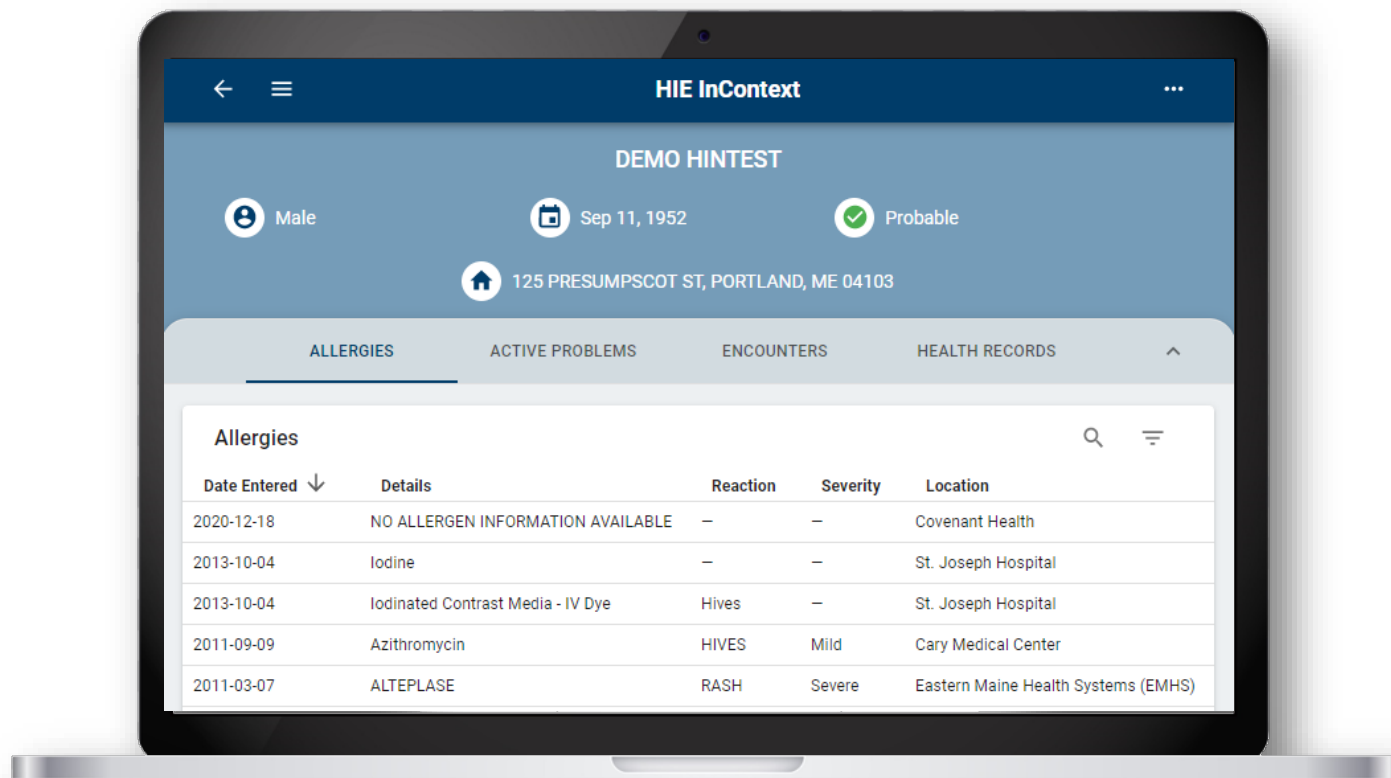
## *Auditor*

- Privacy Log Function
- Mental Health Access Audit Function



# HINcontext Application

EHR-embedded HIE application available at the point of care.



**HINCONTEXT APPLICATION** – A SMART on FHIR EHR-certified application embedded within clinicians' existing workflows to return and display HIE data most conveniently. Key features include:

- Flexible configuration within EHR systems
- Concise data presentations and intuitive system navigation
- User-friendly and clinical workflow-minded design



**CRISP**

*Designed in partnership with*





Our entire team uses HealthInfoNet on a daily basis. Their services help us address **scheduling challenges**, facilitate **referral evaluations**, and prepare for **upcoming consultations and procedures**.

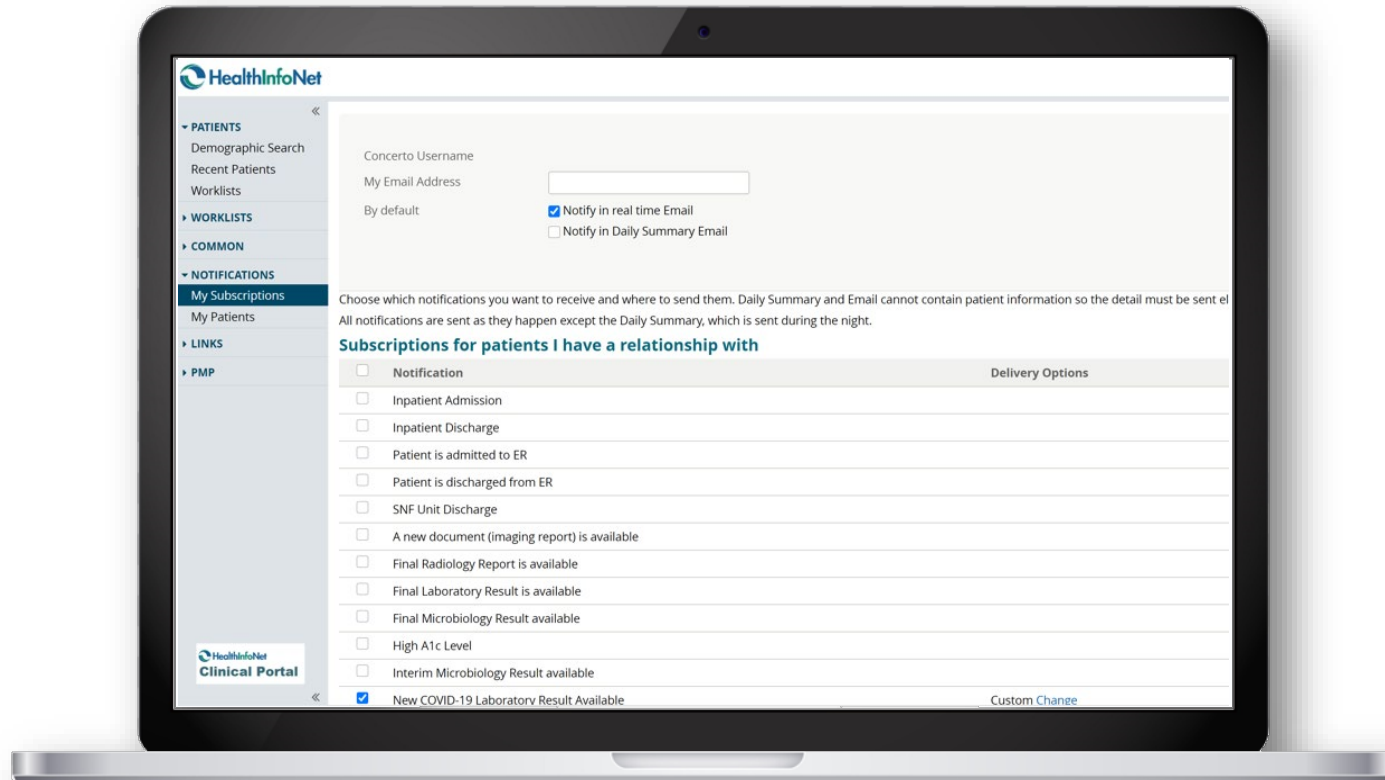
A background image showing a medical professional in a blue scrub suit and gloves, holding a surgical instrument. The image is partially obscured by a large teal triangle on the right side of the page.

Nancy Austin-Stacey, CMA (AAMA),  
St. Joseph Gastroenterology



# Notification Services

Real-time and daily summary event-based alerting.



**NOTIFICATION SERVICES** – Real-time alerting of time-sensitive events that make it possible for clinicians to establish the right care plan at the right time. Key features include:

## *My Patients*

Manual or automated creation of user-specific patient panels for monitoring specific medical events

## *My Subscriptions*

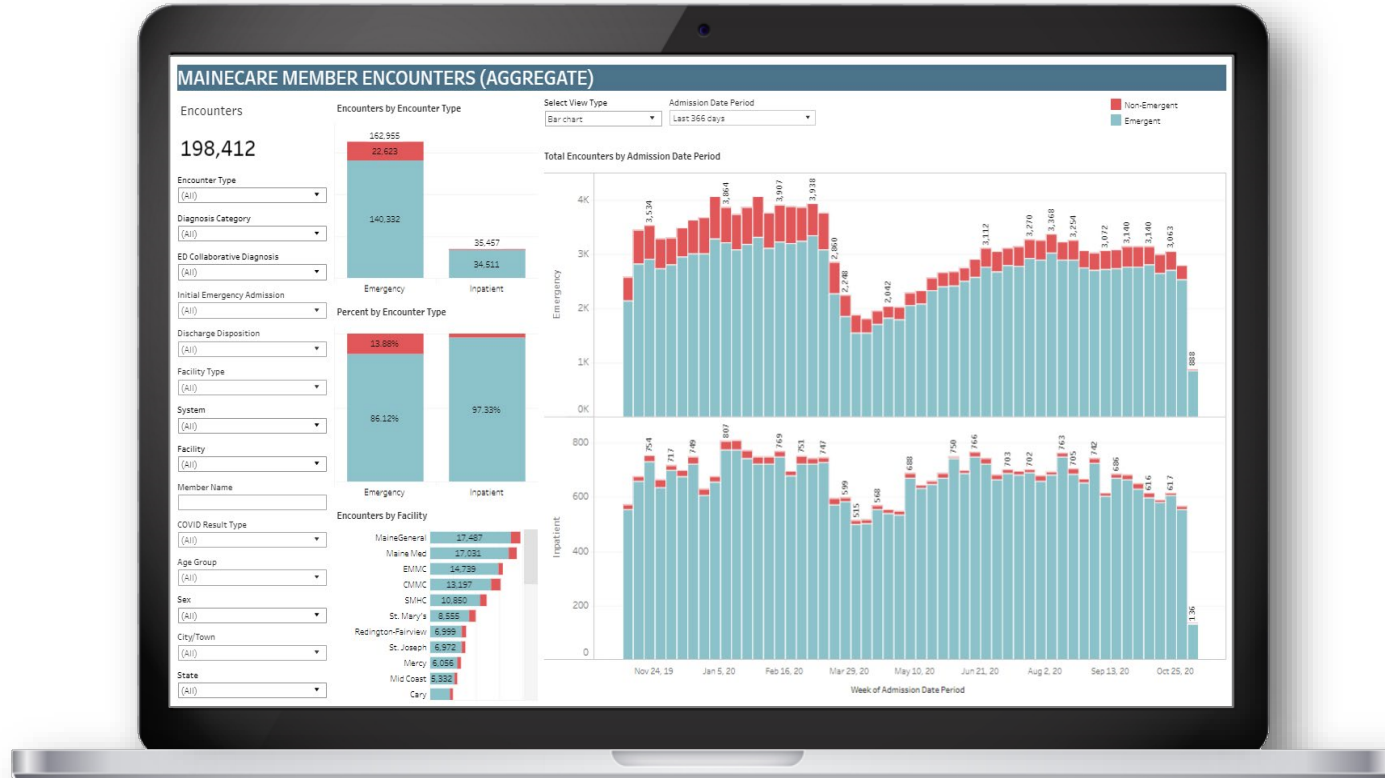
Medical events, such as inpatient/ED admissions/discharges, laboratory results, etc. that clinicians can receive notifications on for their defined patient panels in real-time or in a daily-summary report.





# Analytic & Reporting Platform

Real-time, dynamic reporting to inform operational decision-making.



**ANALYTIC & REPORTING PLATFORM –** Leveraging real-time clinical data across the care continuum to help clinicians drive quality improvements and manage risk and population health. Key features include:

### **Organizational Performance**

Compare actual-to-target performance for key performance indicators (KPIs) using case-mix and severity-adjusted targets

### **Population Risk**

Identify populations and individuals most at risk for future high costs, inpatient admissions, and emergency room visits

### **30-Day Readmission Risk**

Identify inpatient encounters most at risk for 30-day readmissions



# Data Transmission Services

Custom and standard options for delivering underlying data sources.

## Real-Time ADT Transaction

- Customer-specific patient attribution drives ADT message retrieval queries
- Selected ADT messages sent in real-time to customer via established VPN tunnel

## Enriched Data Extracts

- Standard and custom data extract file formats (.txt, .csv), sent daily, monthly, or quarterly
- Customer-specific patient attribution drives extract retrieval queries
- Patient demographics, encounter/visit, and value-added/analytic information





# Public Health Reporting

Automated delivery of real-time notifications to the Maine CDC.



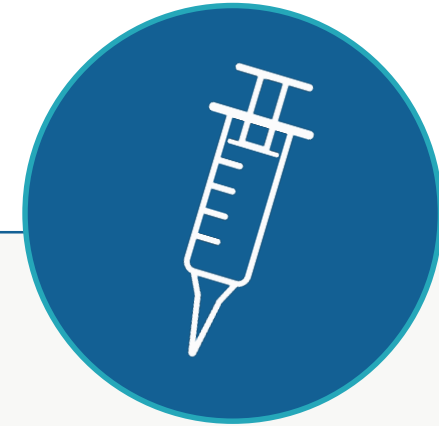
## Syndromic Surveillance

Reporting events of care with chief complaints that indicate possible disease or condition that require review/intervention by the Maine CDC for public safety and health



## E-Laboratory Reporting

Reporting laboratory results that indicate existence of any of the seventy-two diseases that require review/intervention by the Maine CDC for public safety and health



## Immunization Reporting

Reporting all state-supplied vaccine administration data to the Maine Immunization Information System (ImmPact), as required by the Maine CDC for record keeping





Data on population health is essential for public health. **Accurate reporting** of health data is at the core of successful public health programs. Without the data, public health will not succeed. HealthInfoNet supports that mission through their **automated reporting efforts**.



**Stephen Sears, MD, Chief of Staff VA Maine;  
former Maine State Epidemiologist**





# HIE Consent Choices

Patient Choices for Participation in the Health Information Exchange

*Dedicated to helping our communities create lasting system-wide improvements in the value of patient care.*



# Maine HIE Consent Roles/Responsibilities

Ensuring clear functions for HIE consent relationships.



- HealthInfoNet is responsible for **managing HIE consent options** – not participating organizations
- The **consent relationship** is between the individual (i.e., the patient) and HealthInfoNet
- Participating organizations **are required to educate** patients about HIE consent options at least once in their interactions (and subsequently should patients change their choices)
- Consent choices are **universal** – patients cannot make participant-/provider-specific choices



# Maine HIE Consent Choices

Managing patient consent choices for HIE data sharing.

## General Medical Opt-Out

- Maine law requires HealthInfoNet and all HIE participants to follow an **opt-out** consent policy for sharing general medical information
- Patients can opt-out **on paper** or **over the phone**
- When patients choose to opt-out, they opt-out once for **all care locations**, at which point their clinical data is completely removed from the HIE
- Patients can always choose to **opt back in**; however, their records will only be available in the HIE from that point going forward

## Sensitive Information Opt-In

- Maine law allows HIE participants to send **mental health information** (not yet SUD information) if HealthInfoNet:
  1. Maintains an **opt-in** consent policy for sharing the information with (A) all HIE-participating providers ongoing or (B) only treating providers at the point of care/admission (i.e., one-time verbal authorization)
  2. Enforces protections on viewing the information by requiring HIE-participating providers to **unlock the data** in an individual patient's record and log their reason for doing so, including an "emergency" access option





# Maine HIE Education & Training

Informing participants and patients on HIE consent choices.

- Per Maine law, **all HIE-participating organizations** must:

Give an **opt-out form** to each of their patients at least one (1) time at the point of “initial contact” following connection to HealthInfoNet

Send any **signed opt-out forms** to HealthInfoNet within 2 business days (fax is the most common delivery method)

Provide a way for patients to **opt-out at no cost** to the patient

- Prior to going “live” with HealthInfoNet, participating providers must be active with patient education at the point of care





# HIE Updates

An Update on Recent Activities at HealthInfoNet

*Dedicated to helping our communities create lasting system-wide improvements in the value of patient care.*



# COVID-19 Reporting Efforts

Developing solutions to support statewide COVID-19 efforts.

- Access to COVID-19 laboratory test results in Clinical Portal and HINcontext Application document trees
  - Added connection to the State Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory HETL
  - Adding (in Feb 2021) State Immunization Data to the HIE
- Creation of COVID-19 laboratory result subscription in Notification Services to alert users when a new laboratory results is available for users' patient panels
  - Users can receive the notification via email either in real-time or on a daily basis
  - End users can then hyperlink from the email to the patient's HIE record to learn more about their laboratory test results for follow-on action

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Notification</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inpatient Admission
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inpatient Discharge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patient is admitted to ER
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patient is discharged from ER
<input type="checkbox"/>	SNF Unit Discharge
<input type="checkbox"/>	A new document (imaging report) is available
<input type="checkbox"/>	Final Radiology Report is available
<input type="checkbox"/>	Final Laboratory Result is available
<input type="checkbox"/>	Final Microbiology Result available
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interim Microbiology Result available
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New COVID-19 Laboratory Result Available
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patient Deceased
<input type="checkbox"/>	A new document is available

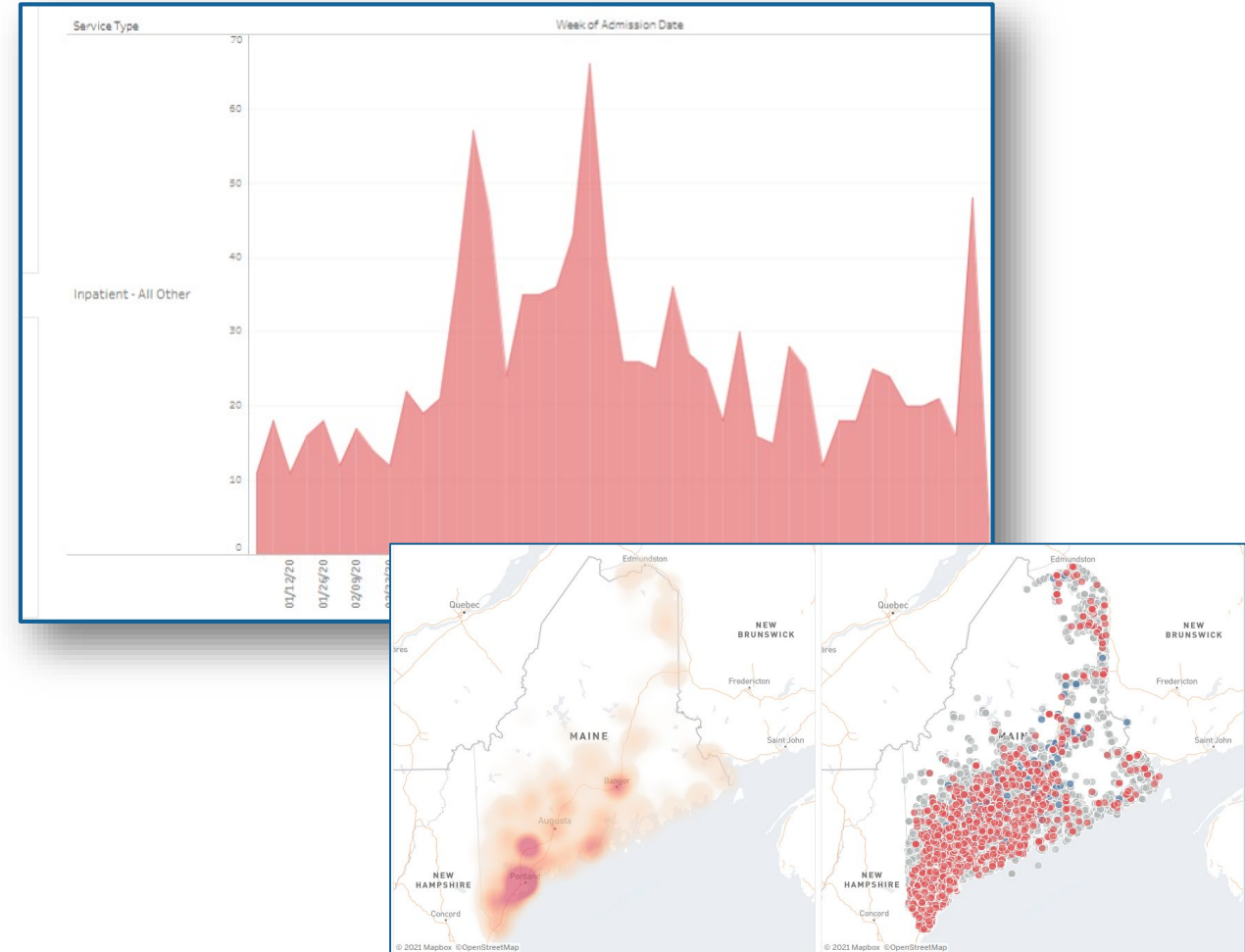




# COVID-19 Reporting Efforts (cont.)

Developing solutions to support statewide COVID-19 efforts.

- Developed Tableau® reporting dashboards with support from HIE participants and Maine DHHS
- Data sourced from HIE-participating providers and state and local laboratories
- Report on patient populations tested for or diagnosed with COVID-19 in a laboratory site located in Maine
- Primary audiences include Maine DHHS, Maine CDC, and authorized HIE participants





# 2021 Priority Areas

Looking ahead to our company's key priority areas in 2021.

## Analytic & Reporting

Develop internal and partner capacities to expand the HIE's analytic and reporting capacities, functions, and value statewide

## SDOH Functionality

Build out the technical capabilities to support the acceptance, saving, and sharing of Social Determinant of Health (SDOH) data in the HIE

## Infrastructure Efficiencies

Make necessary updates to critical internal infrastructure and databases to align with contemporary technologies and services

## External Data Sources & Networks

Expand our networks to additional data sources including SUD due to changes to the federal law under the CARES Act







60 Pineland Drive  
Portland Hall, Suite 230  
New Gloucester, ME 04260



[www.hinfonet.org](http://www.hinfonet.org)



Shaun Alfreds, Executive Director and CEO  
[salfreds@hinfonet.org](mailto:salfreds@hinfonet.org)



207-541-9250



<https://twitter.com/hinfonet>



[https://www.linkedin.com/  
company/healthinonet](https://www.linkedin.com/company/healthinonet)