



VHIE Connectivity Criteria Certification Process

Overview

The Vermont Health Information Exchange (VHIE) Connectivity Criteria establish the conditions for health care organizations to connect to the VHIE. The VHIE is the technology that aggregates data and facilitates the exchange of patient clinical information. The criteria:

- are designed to be incremental in its approach to set a path for organizations to connect
- guide data contributors in meeting certain conditions to connect and share useful, quality data
- assist health care organizations in selecting or maximizing electronic health record (EHR) and other technology investments
- incorporate tools allowing health care organizations to perform a self-assessment which can then be validated by Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL)

The VHIE Connectivity Criteria are incorporated into the Vermont HIE Plan and are reviewed annually for approval by the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB).

When do Health Care Organizations complete the VHIE Connectivity Criteria?

Organizations need to complete the criteria when any of the following occur:

- Connecting to the VHIE for each interface contributing data
- Selecting/Purchasing/Implementing a new or replacement EHR
- HIT-related Certificate of Need requests to the GMCB
- Participating in a payment reform program and Data Quality Sprint (as requested) to contribute data. Programs include: OneCare Vermont care management and data analytics platform, Vermont Department for Health Immunization Registry, Blueprint for Health Vermont Clinical Registry and other programs as needed

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Health care organizations may need to engage their EHR vendors to complete the VHIE Connectivity Criteria materials and make any necessary technical changes. Health care organizations will complete the items below in bold

- 1. Complete the VHIE questionnaire**
- 2. Complete the VHIE Data Set and Data Quality Worksheet**
3. VITL will review the materials, develop a VHIE Connectivity Plan, and meet with the organization to communicate the plan to connect
- 4. Address areas of improvement in the VHIE Connectivity Plan. Areas of improvement may include EHR technical documentation and/or practice workflow changes**

Certification

Health care organizations meeting each level of the criteria are issued a letter and certificate of recognition seal (See below). Organizations are encouraged to post the certificate of recognition seal on their website and printed materials demonstrating achievement in meeting the criteria, especially in HIT-related Certificate of Need requests.

