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Health Information Technology

Maine healthcare providers announce planned statewide electronic system.

The [AP](#) (1/17) reported, that on Wednesday, Maine healthcare providers "unveiled a statewide electronic system for sharing medical information, a network intended to improve the quality of care, reduce medical errors and slow the growth of healthcare costs." Construction of the \$4 million HealthInfoNet network will begin Feb. 1, and the system is scheduled "to be launched later this year." The new system "will contain information drawn from separately maintained records in doctors' offices, hospitals, laboratories and other locations." Proponents predict the technology will allow the healthcare industry to "save \$50 million per year by curbing unnecessary and duplicative tests, procedures, prescriptions and hospital admissions."

According to [Healthcare IT News](#) (1/17, Monegain), "Beginning this winter, more than 2,000 healthcare providers, including 15 rural and urban hospitals across Maine and one-third of practicing physicians in Maine, will join with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (part of the Department of Health and Human Services) in a 24-month pilot of the new network." After completion of "the pilot, plans are to expand HealthInfoNet to include other providers who care for Maine's 1.3 million residents."

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