
YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH SYSTEM AND HEALTHFIRST JOIN LINXUS

Linxus Board Takes Preliminary Steps to Incorporate as Stand-alone Entity

Health Plans

Aetna
Empire Blue Cross
Blue Shield
(WellPoint)
GHI
HealthFirst
HIP
Oxford Health Plans
(a UnitedHealth Company)

Providers

Continuum Health Partners
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
& Practice Plan
Montefiore Medical Center
& Faculty Practice
The Mount Sinai Hospital
New York Presbyterian
Health System
& Columbia University
Practice Plan
& Weill Cornell Physician
Organization
North Shore–Long Island
Jewish Health System
New York University
Medical Center &
Faculty Group Practice
Yale New Haven
Health System

January 31, 2008, New York, NY - Yale New Haven Health System and HealthFirst, Inc. have reached agreements to join Linxus, a consortium of hospitals, physician groups, and commercial and government payers committed to increasing the standardization and use of electronic transactions and lowering health care administrative costs.

Yale New Haven and HealthFirst join seven other hospital systems and their faculty practice groups, as well as five health plans operating regionally in New York and nationally, that have pledged to develop single technology standards—or information technology (IT) implementation specifications—that can be used on any platform to simplify reimbursement and make payment administration less costly for both plans and providers.

The single implementation specifications that Linxus's participants have pledged to help develop will be based on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Transactions and Code Set standards, which were developed to simplify the administration of health insurance-related transactions—specifically, reimbursement encounters—between health care providers and health insurance plans by creating a framework for the electronic exchange of information.

By unanimous vote, the Linxus Board also approved plans to incorporate as a not-for-profit corporation and operate as a stand-alone entity beginning in 2008. The Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) will continue to serve in the role of program manager. As a stand-alone entity, the Linxus Board's goal is to create a larger, national platform from which to advocate for the adoption of standards and best practices created collaboratively among its membership.

Linxus was formed in 2005 as a unique collaboration, equally owned and directed by providers and health plans. The participants were brought together by a common understanding of the limitations of HIPAA—that for IT standards to work in creating mutual business value, greater understanding of each other's unique business environments was needed. Participants work collaboratively, with a focus on ensuring that transactions and data content are specific and consistent, so that information exchanged electronically between the parties is meaningful and actionable.

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