

California Integrated Data Exchange (Cal INDEX)

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Research Areas



Tool Development

Data Sharing



Data-Sharing Enabler

At a Glance

- Status: **Active Consortium**
- Year Launched: **2014**
- Initiating Organization: **Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of California**
- Initiator Type: **Health-care organization**
- Location: **North America**

Abstract

The California Integrated Data Exchange (Cal INDEX) is an \$80 million, three-year organization that brings together insurers and healthcare providers to share information about approximately 9 million patients, with the goal that insights from the data will reduce healthcare costs and improve outcomes. Cal INDEX aims to be one of the largest health information exchanges (HIEs) in the country, with the goal of better connecting the vast, often disparate healthcare landscape across California.

Mission

Cal INDEX is an independent organization that operates for the benefit of all Californians by providing doctors, nurses, and hospitals throughout the state with a unified source of integrated patient information. Participation is open to all providers and insurers who contribute clinical data, with the intent to collaborate with other HIEs throughout the state. Cal INDEX expects to be operational by the end of 2014.

Consortium History

Cal INDEX is an independent, not-for-profit organization formed in August 2014 by Blue Shield of California and Anthem Blue Cross to address the major unmet medical need for a statewide HIE.

Structure & Governance

Cal INDEX is governed by a five-member Board of Directors with an independent management team reporting to the Board.

Financing

Blue Shield of California and Anthem Blue Cross provided \$80 million in seed funding to cover Cal INDEX's operating costs for its first three years. After these three years, the financial plan is to have participating providers and insurers pay subscription fees.

Patent Engagement

The Board of Directors has an unfilled position for a consumer representative.

If a patient's healthcare provider or health plan participates in Cal INDEX, then that patient will likely be enrolled in Cal INDEX and eligible for its benefits. Any patient of a participating provider or member of a participating health plan who does not want his or her health information shared on the exchange can choose not to participate in Cal INDEX. No healthcare provider participating in Cal INDEX will deny medical care to a patient who chooses not to participate, and insurance eligibility will not be affected by the choice to participate or not participate.

Data Sharing

The database housing patient data will be overseen by Orion Health, an independent eHealth software company. The information will be used only for clinical purposes. Academic research institutions can

apply to use the Cal INDEX de-identified data for research to benefit the public good, such as population health initiatives.

Cal INDEX plans to launch in 2014 with approximately 9 million health information records from combined members of Dignity Health and Blue Shield of California and Anthem Blue Cross. Cal INDEX is open to any health data contributor. Cal INDEX will establish a bi-directional data interface with providers to exchange data with EMRs and other hospital and office-based systems.

Cal INDEX intends to encourage healthcare technology innovation by sharing technology standards that will allow others to create innovative offerings that will work with the Cal INDEX platform.

Cal Index's data-sharing capabilities are built on the recommendations regarding privacy and security of patient data by the California Office of Health Information Integrity, consumer groups, and regional HIEs that have done considerable work to establish guidelines around patient consent. Cal INDEX plans to have a chief privacy officer and full privacy and security policies/standards in place when it is operational.

For researchers, Cal INDEX offers access to one of the largest health data repositories in the world. Academic research institutions and other third-party organizations may use Cal INDEX de-identified data for research to benefit the public good, such as population health initiatives. Research will abide by scientific principles and will be managed through an Institutional Review Board (IRB) or equivalent process. This access will be carefully managed and monitored to ensure alignment with the Cal INDEX goals.

For health information technology entrepreneurs, Cal INDEX offers shared technology standards that can be used to create innovative offerings that will work with the Cal INDEX platform.

For health plans, Cal INDEX offers (a) access to integrated payer/provider data sets on their members and (b) integrated patient data that enable accountable care organizations, patient-centered medical homes, and other innovative care delivery models to develop differentiating advanced analytics.

Impact/Accomplishment

The official launch of the data platform is scheduled for the end of 2014.

Links/Social Media Feed

Homepage

<https://www.calindex.org/>

Twitter

[@calindex](https://twitter.com/calindex)

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/calindex>

Points of Contact

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Sponsors & Partners

Anthem Blue Cross

Blue Shield of California

Dignity Health

Updated: **10/11/2016**