



The Exchange

 **BIG SKY
CARE CONNECT**
Montana's Premier Health Information Exchange

January 5, 2021 | Issue #6

Upcoming Events

January

[MPQH Events](#)

March 29-30

[ONC Annual Meeting](#)

BSCC ED Alerts Educational Webinar

Montana Emergency Departments (ED) if you did not have the opportunity to join the educational webinars hosted by Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC), Collective Medical, and the Montana Hospital Association, click here to watch the recording. EDs have the opportunity to sign up for BSCC ED Alerts to help support you throughout the COVID pandemic and beyond. In partnership with MHA, BSCC ED Alerts will be covered for two (2) years! Sign up today!

[ED Alerts
Webinar](#)

Happy New Year!



**BIG SKY
CARE CONNECT**

Welcome to Big Sky Care Connect!

Wishing You a Happy and Healthy New Year!

I would like to thank the entire BSCC team and growing network of partners and participants for their involvement in bringing Montanans the modern health information solution they need, especially during this past year. On December 18th, BSCC, along with four (4) early adoption sites, launched a successful soft go live of the HIE. This launch represents the first of its kind in the State allowing access to this meaningful and robust secure health information data exchange. As BSCC continues to identify and include additional core services and health exchange partners, Montana's HIE will be positioned as a more effective and valuable source to create a healthier Montana. The launch of the HIE was a great early gift for the holidays.

Warmest wishes,

Jean Branscum, CAO
Big Sky Care Connect
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Big Sky Care Connect Stands Up Montana's First Statewide Health Information Exchange

On December 18th, medical providers, health care workers, and multiple healthcare systems across the state of Montana witnessed the moment many have awaited, as [Big Sky Care Connect](#) (BSCC) stood up the first state-designated health information exchange (HIE). This HIE is a modern system for improving patient health by saving time and expediting patient care through sophisticated information technology. **BSCC** feeds data from healthcare providers across the state into a centralized digital network that serves as a real-time information system for participating providers, patients, and payors in Montana. Healthcare organizations and providers of all types throughout the state can participate in the network.

BSCC is a continuing collaborative effort among Montana healthcare providers and health professionals committed to embracing and implementing the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) Triple Aim: Improving the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction); Improving the health of populations; and reducing the per capita cost of health care. This framework for care developed in 2007 continues to shape the manner in which the highest

quality of healthcare is optimized and delivered.

One of the key facets of the Triple Aim is the focus on identifying and addressing risk in communities. Everyone living in the community a health care organization is part of *could potentially become a patient*. Montana is a rural state with unique health information needs. Currently, the Board of Medical Examiners (BOME) reports nearly 3,000 practicing physicians in the state of Montana. Of these reported 3,000 practicing physicians, 1,500 are practicing in a rural setting. The need for a statewide HIE has never been greater.

Understanding what the most likely reasons would be for members of a specific population to engage with the health care system can help organizations preemptively develop strategies to offset costs and provide improved, patient-centered, and coordinated care. With the technology platform that **BSCC** has developed, health care providers of all specialties, patients, and payors across the care continuum can now, for the first time, share real-time health information.

As new providers and health care systems join Montana's HIE, **BSCC** will continue to grow, making a real-time, secure, and robust data-sharing platform a reality for all Montanans.



To learn more or to sign up contact BSCC at information@mtbscc.org or call 406-422-1078.

A graphic for Big Sky Care Connect. At the top left is the logo 'BIG SKY CARE CONNECT' with a green background. Below it are four circular icons: a hospital building, a nurse with a stethoscope, a doctor with a stethoscope, and a shield with a cross. To the right, the word 'Participants' is written in large white font, with the number '30' below it in a very large white font with red radiating lines. Below the number, the text 'including Hospitals, FQHCs, Behavioral Health, Long Term Care, Specialty Clinics, & Payors' is written in white.

Shared **HOPES**

Hospital Optimized Pandemic Electronic Solution

Shared **HOPES** is a statewide technology and care-collaboration solution implemented by the Montana Hospital Association (MHA) through funding from the Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The objective of this program is to prepare Montana health care stakeholders to mitigate the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and future infectious disease outbreaks.

- **Solution:** Real-time event notification alerting technology and care-collaboration solutions for emergency preparedness
- **Platform and Care Coordination Network of Choice:** Collective Medical, made available through Big Sky Care Connect (BSCC)
- **Collaboration:** Hospitals in Montana, including MHA and BSCC, will work together to implement BSCC ED Alerts at every hospital in the state

BSCC, MHA, and Collective Medical will be hosting educational webinars for Montana emergency departments (ED) and their leadership to learn more. We are encouraging all Montana EDs to take advantage of this funding now to provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To learn more or sign up contact BSCC at information@mtbscc.org or call 406-422-1078.

ED Alerts
Webinar

Shared HOPES program
flyer

BSCC ED Alerts

HIE Industry News



Interoperability consortium an 'even higher priority'...

International experts convened at the 'Interoperability Forum' session to discuss standout interoperability deployment projects across the Middle East and deep dive into the Health Information Exchange (HIE) initiatives that have ensued.

[Read more](#)
www.healthcareitnews.com



Reducing Provider and Patient Burden by Improving Prior...

Building on the CMS Interoperability and Patient Access final rule (CMS-9115-F), this proposed rule would place new requirements on Medicaid and CHIP managed care plans, state Medicaid and CHIP fee-for-service programs, and Qualified Health Plans ...

[Read more](#)
www.cms.gov



HHS Releases Final 2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic ...

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the final 2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan after accumulating roughly 100 public comments and taking recommendations by over 25 federal organizations....

[Read more](#)
ehrintelligence.com

Interested in Partnering with BSCC in 2021?

Health Facilities & Providers

Interested in participating in Montana's HIE to gain access to comprehensive patient information collected from payors and health care organizations across the State? Harness the power of health information by joining BSCC, Montana's premier statewide HIE. Contact BSCC today at (406) 422-1078 or email us at information@mtbscc.org. BSCC was created through 90/10 grant funding and championed by leaders within Montana's healthcare community.

Patients

Become a part of the BSCC Network today by talking to your provider. If your provider's facility participates in the BSCC Network, then you are already in! Being in the network allows providers who are unfamiliar with your history to access to your health information – like during an emergency or when you change or are referred to another provider. Your participation is voluntary, and you can opt out at any time by requesting an opt out from your provider. If you do choose to opt out, first speak with your provider about the benefits or check out our website at mtbscc.org for more information. Montana's statewide HIE enhances the quality of care while empowering patients to play an active role in their healthcare.

Contact BSCC

Harnessing the power of healthcare information to create healthy Montana communities.

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