Regional Health Information Exchange Organization (RHIO)

Regional Health Information Exchange Organizations, or RHIOs, are the nodes connecting together the statewide health Information network. The New York State health information network is SHIN-NY (State Health Information Network for New York).

How can the RHIO assist network providers?
For Oscar enrollees who consent to sharing their medical information with their providers via the RHIO, it is possible for a hospital emergency room physician to query the RHIO and see medical information from the patient’s ambulatory care record, radiology and lab results as well as information about previous hospital admissions. Physicians and facilities that participate in the RHIO receive and supply medical information to the RHIO for their patients who have consented to participate. This clearly improves the accuracy of self-reported patient information and identifies the patient’s treating clinicians.

How does Oscar utilize the RHIO?
Oscar participates in HEALTHIX – the downstate RHIO; and through Healthix, Oscar is connected to the larger New York e-Health Collaborative (NYeC). The NYeC operates via the SHIN-NY. Oscar offers its members the opportunity to consent to sharing their medical information through the RHIO when they join the plan. For those members that consent, Oscar is able to query the RHIO and supplement the member-reported health history information provided in the Plan’s Health Risk Assessment for purposes of Care Management. Oscar is also working with the RHIO to receive automated notifications when an Oscar enrollee accesses the Emergency Department or is admitted/discharged from an inpatient setting. These notifications will enable Oscar to act more expeditiously to address the care management needs of our enrollees and inform the enrollee’s Primary Care Provider (PCP) of inpatient admissions and ED Visits. Oscar encourages its network providers to discuss participation in the RHIO with their patients to speed the flow of information in critical healthcare situations. Oscar also encourages its network providers to participate in the RHIO and improve the completeness of patient data available through the RHIO.

What is the RHIO?
A RHIO is a non-governmental, not-for-profit corporation enabling interoperable health information exchange via the Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY). RHIOs participate in setting information policies through a statewide policy.
framework and governance process, along with implementing policies and ensuring adherence to such policies with a mission of governing its use in the public’s interest and for the public good to improve health care quality and safety and reduce costs. To fulfill this mission, RHIOs require commitment from multiple health care stakeholders in a geographic region, including physicians; hospitals, long term care and home care providers, patients, insurers, purchasers, and government. RHIOs are responsible for enabling interoperability through which individual stakeholders are linked together – both organizationally and technically through the SHIN-NY – in a coordinated manner for health information exchange and quality and population health reporting.¹

¹ http://nyehealth.org/what-we-do/statewide-network/regional-networks/