GRAChIE
Georgia Regional Academic Community Health Information Exchange
Tara Broxton Cramer
GRAChIE is well established with committed Stakeholders
Health care in the United States is not as safe as it should be—and can be. At least 44,000 people, and perhaps as many as 98,000 people, die in hospitals each year as a result of medical errors that could have been prevented, according to estimates from two major studies. Even using the lower estimate, preventable medical errors in hospitals exceed attributable deaths to such feared threats as motor-vehicle wrecks, breast cancer, and AIDS.

Medical errors can be defined as the failure of a planned action to be completed as intended or the use of a wrong plan to achieve an aim. Among the problems that commonly occur during the course of providing health care are adverse drug events and improper transfusions, surgical injuries and wrong-site surgery, suicides, restraint-related injuries or death, falls, burns, pressure ulcers, and mistaken patient identities. High error rates with serious consequences are most likely to occur in intensive care units, operating rooms, and emergency departments.
Care Coordination
  - Primary Care to Specialist (multiple sites of care)
  - CAH/Rural Hospital to Large Health System
  - Trauma Transport
  - Tele-Medicine
  - ED Visits

Clinical Integration/Affiliation

Meaningful Use/Payment Reform
2,220,536 Unique Patients

Crossover up to 9 sources
GRAChIE Membership is statewide and growing.

Currently 34 data contributors across 110 locations.

Approximately 3900 active provider users

GRAChIE is connected to GaHIN, eHealth Exchange, Adventist Health System, Palmetto Health System and Department of Veterans Affairs
HIE Data
What kind of data is in GRACHIE?

Sharing Data Beyond the “Standard”

- Demographic data
- Visit history
- Problems and Diagnoses
- Medications
- Allergies
- Vital signs

- Lab results
- Immunizations
- Discharge Summaries
- History and Physical
- Radiology reports
- Provider reports

HIE is dependent on the information sent to it by the EMR
We admitted an unresponsive patient with severe sepsis who could give little history and had never been to our hospital before.

By taking less than one minute to check for a GRACHIE record, we determined the patient has anaphylaxis to Penicillin, including Zosyn, and has a history of positive Penicillin skin testing.

This very likely prevented an unnecessary death by being able to see her allergies.
Physician Stories

A patient was admitted through our ER with tremendous pain related to a large chest mass that was suspicious for cancer.

GRAChIE revealed two lung biopsies in the past two months at different Georgia hospitals and a well-established diagnosis of a slow growing lung cancer. The patient was going from hospital to hospital seeking pain relief, but never following up for cancer treatments.

We were able to have educational conversations and discharge him without unnecessary testing or procedures.
Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council (Safety Net) is a county-wide planning body of key stakeholders, including providers, government representatives, advocates, funders, and consumers. *Our goal is to strengthen the health care infrastructure for primary care, build capacity within our community’s safety net system, improve access to health care and link the uninsured and underinsured to a medical home.*
Strategies that work for GRACHIE (non-technical)

- Committed Partners
- MOVE
- Always, always ask the question
- Think outside of your strategy for growth
- Prioritize by readiness

Our Challenges

- Mergers/Acquisitions/Closures
- Fear of Mergers/Acquisitions/Closures
- Growing Pains – system performance, MPI, Data Integrity
Interoperability describes the extent to which systems and devices can exchange data and interpret that shared data. For two systems to be interoperable, they must be able to exchange data and subsequently present that data such that it can be understood by a user.
Interoperability is key

Diversity – systems, care continuum

Adding Functionality

Finding our natural Evolution without losing our purpose
Interoperability is key

Adding Functionality & Finding our natural Evolution with losing our purpose

- Event Notification
- Disaster Preparedness
- Pop Health/Analytics
- ACO support
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