

OnTrack



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at the Lackawanna Train Station - 45 Lewis Street, Binghamton, NY 13905

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www.sthlny.com

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The Question of Consent, Part IV The Personal Healthcare Record

Under HIPAA regulations, patients have the right to view their own medical records. A written request must be made to each provider's office and the response may take up to 30 days. It can be a lengthy process to get records from several different providers. But by next summer, patients in the area will have immediate, continuous access to their medical records all in one place – on the computer – through a personal healthcare record (PHR).

The PHR is a web-based tool where patients log in to view their own records and even share them with family members or care givers. The information they see will come from STHL's health information exchange (HIE). There are

many versions of the PHR available on line these days, but those are not linked to an HIE and require the patient to enter all of the health information manually. This makes for a cumbersome process that falls short of providing a useful tool for patients who want to – or must – closely monitor and manage their own healthcare.

The PHR that Southern Tier HealthLink NY will be offering is an interactive system that will allow patients to:

- View their medical history and current activity from local providers
- share access to their PHR with family members or caregivers
- set reminders for prescription refills, recurring tests, or doctor visits
- communicate with their providers to request an appointment or ask a question
- view who has accessed their records and when
- add information to their own record (such as herbal supplements, new symptoms, or allergic reactions)
- get current medical and drug information related to their conditions or interests
- research health information from accredited medical sources
- review alerts about allergies and drug interactions

By offering the PHR, Southern Tier HealthLink NY hopes to encourage patients to take a very active role in managing their own healthcare. Watch for more information about the PHR in upcoming issues.

Next month: *The Window of Consent*

**For Parts 1, 2 & 3, see July-September ON TRACK newsletters*

STHL IN SECOND LIFE

NY Healthscape

Southern Tier HealthLink NY is taking advantage of the "immersive learning" opportunities made possible in the virtual world environment of Second Life, a computer-generated, 3D virtual world. NY Healthscape is STHL's Second Life region where visitors learn about the benefits of a health information exchange by creating a virtual personal health record. If you would like more information about the rich educational opportunity offered by virtual world technology, or if you would like an "in world" tour of NY Healthscape, email us at info@sthlny.com.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Southern Tier Imaging

When accuracy, experience & convenience count

Southern Tier Imaging (STI) is a division of Park Ave Associates in Radiology, PC, and has been operating in the area since 1987. STI is dedicated to bringing the most innovative technology available to the Southern Tier, including the Altair open MRI scanner and breast imaging software that not only detects cancer but can also recommend an individualized treatment plan. STI is a founding stakeholder of Southern Tier HealthLink NY and will provide access to digital MRI images for doctors who use the HIE.



NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Welcome Emily Pape and Christina Yale

Emily Pape is the new project coordinator focusing on privacy, security and research. She has several years' experience researching healthcare policy research and earned a Ph.D. in Health Services Organization and Policy from the University of Michigan. Emily is excited to work at STHL because, as an economist, she feels, *"STHL is on the forefront of information technology that will not only change how health care is delivered but also improve the value of care."*

Emily lives in Binghamton with her husband Andreas.



Christina Yale is our new Help Desk Support Specialist. Her many projects will include data support for the health information exchange as well as technical support for the HIE users and STHL staff. Christina comes to us from EFX Internet where she worked on website development; she graduated from the Networking and Technical Support program at Ridley Lowell in 2002.

Christina lives on a farm in Fenton and enjoys walking her dog Blackie and riding her horse, especially during the Fall season.



FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

Open House for the Community

STHLNY is pleased to open its doors each month to the community by participating in the First Friday Art Walk, an open house-style evening that not only provides a gallery for local artists but also gives us the chance to talk with healthcare consumers, build visibility at our unique location, and be an active member of our community. Coming up next month:



Lions and Tigers and Binghamton, On My!

Wildlife and Cityscape Photography by Michael Woolever

November 6th, 2009, 6-9pm

Local photographer Mike Woolever will exhibit a unique collection combining Binghamton city life with the wildlife of Ross Park and Syracuse's Rosamond Gifford Zoo. A self-taught artist, Mike has already achieved national distinction with an image chosen for the 2009 Sony World Photography Awards Book. His current interests range from wildlife and nature to rural and urban landscapes.

WHAT'S COMING UP

- ✓ More on NYHealthscape
- ✓ HIE Watch: The Window of Consent