

# Be a Part of the Transformation in Healthcare – Become an Arizona Health-e Connection Member!

Arizona  
**Health-e**  
Connection

*Advancing health and wellness  
through information technology*

## Why Join Arizona Health-e Connection?

Arizona Health-e Connection (AzHeC) is at the forefront of leading health information infrastructure (HII) in Arizona, with several exciting efforts already underway in the state. However, the landscape is quickly changing!

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, a component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) has accelerated the pace of HII with its emphasis on funding and structure for its adoption. AzHeC needs organizations from across Arizona to become engaged in HII to ensure chosen strategies are effective in creating a safer, more integrated and efficient healthcare system.

Every consumer, purchaser, insurer and provider of healthcare has a stake in ensuring that “the right information is available at the right time to the right person for the right purpose.” This is your opportunity to learn, weigh-in and collaborate during a transformational time in healthcare!

## Why Does Health Information Infrastructure Matter?

The Institute of Medicine estimates between 44,000 and 99,000 Americans die of medical errors each year. Additionally, this figure was an underestimate of total errors as it only included deaths in hospitals, not clinics, nursing homes or home healthcare settings. When scaled to Arizona, this very likely means upwards of 1,500 to 2,000 people die needlessly in Arizona annually.

Deaths are the extreme case and are evidence that many other errors are occurring that decrease Arizonans’ quality of life and productivity. Healthcare costs continue to rise; yet quality does not. While many agree we’re spending enough money, clearly it’s not being spent effectively.

HII has the ability to transform healthcare into a safer, more efficient and patient-centered system. And, in today’s world of rapid mobility, where Americans move across the country, change jobs (and health plans) and seek treatment from new healthcare providers, easy access to medical records is more important than ever. Currently, Americans have medical information stored in multiple provider offices, often thousands of miles apart. With the advent of technology and the Internet, you’d think this isn’t a problem, but it is.

## Consider that:

- Most medical records are still paper-based, and virtually none can be exchanged electronically.
- Paper-based information does not follow patients. Therefore, patients are routinely asked for the same information over and over. In some cases, people cannot recall the details of past treatments or current medications, causing more challenges.
- Even if a lab or test was ordered recently by a primary care provider, it is unlikely to be accessible by an emergency department physician, who must then order the same test again to ensure proper diagnosis and treatment.
- Decisions made without access to existing information are wasteful and cause errors.

## About Arizona Health-e Connection

*AzHeC is a statewide non-profit charged with leading Arizona’s establishment of health information infrastructure (HII), including adoption of electronic health records and health information exchange. This is accomplished by convening stakeholders to provide a forum for education, negotiation, collaboration and decision making relative to the statewide implementation of HII. Now an independent non-profit, incorporated in 2007, AzHeC originally grew out of an August 2005 gubernatorial executive order to develop a Roadmap for HII in Arizona. AzHeC has been widely recognized for its collaborative work in moving Arizona’s HII efforts forward through strategic communication and coordination among multiple stakeholders. AzHeC is a recipient of the coveted Council of State Governments’ Innovations Award and has been featured in a Harvard Business School case study.*

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## What Does My Membership Provide?

Being part of AzHeC provides an opportunity to be part of an extremely exciting time in healthcare — a time of strengthening its foundation and movement forward. Members receive the following benefits:

- Voting rights and eligibility to serve on the AzHeC Board of Directors
- A one-on-one welcome with AzHeC staff – includes a briefing on national and state activities, as well as an interview of your company regarding interest in participating in specific activities
- Access to and discounts for AzHeC Member Forums and Webinars
- AzHeC Email updates, news and publications
- Discounted attendance at the Western States Health-e Connection Summit & Trade Show
- AzHeC Member discounts will apply to all employees of the organization as well as all members of not-for-profit associations
- Logo on AzHeC Website, with hyperlink to company Website
- Eligible to serve on AzHeC workgroups and committees
- Other benefits to be developed



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**Learn More!**