

Dear New England HIMSS Members,

On behalf of the NEHIMSS entire board we welcome you to another year of educational and professional growth experiences. As we move forward I would like to pay tribute to all of the great strides our chapter made last year. It was a tremendous year for our NEHIMSS. Membership increased by ten percent. Our conferences, including the Patient Experience, Public Policy and PMI events drew high profile speakers and record numbers of attendees. The monthly networking series was launched, giving professionals involved in healthcare information systems the opportunity to meet and learn from their peers in a casual and convenient setting. There were many people who worked very hard on these endeavors. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who made last year a great success! Mike Kusmin deserves a round of applause for the leadership he gave the board while serving as last year's President.

This year, our theme is "efficiency in healthcare". The rise of consumerism and high-deductible insurance plans is forcing providers to be more streamlined in the way they deliver care. Moreover, payers are tying these efficiencies to reimbursement. For instance by meeting certain measures for a disease management plan, a provider can expect to earn a higher reimbursement through the Pay-for-Performance program. To that end, many of our programs for this year will focus on efficiency. Some examples include:

- Mandatory CPOE (October)
- Transparency in Healthcare (November)
- Uses of six sigma and LEAN methodologies in healthcare

We look forward to your continued participation in all NEHIMSS events. The board will continue to deliver the monthly networking series as well as the half and full-day conferences you have come to expect. As always please feel free to contact me or anyone on the board if you have any questions regarding any of our upcoming events. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Best regards,
Rich Snyder
NEHIMSS President