



Healthy communities are built upon the availability of informed health professionals as well as community members who are knowledgeable about their health and well-being. Many health professionals in Minnesota do not have access to a medical library and may have limited or no access to the latest evidence-based information to support quality care. Health consumers need access to trusted health information to communicate more fully with their health care providers.

To address these information needs, the Health Sciences Libraries and MINITEX Library Information Network at the University of Minnesota are exploring the feasibility of providing online access to a core set of clinical information resources. These resources will be made available to all Minnesota health professionals and to every citizen of the state through the My Health Minnesota → Electronic Health Library (eHL).

## Mission

To foster clinical excellence by providing equitable access to quality, evidence-based health information for all of Minnesota's health practitioners, researchers, and students, and to provide accurate health information to every citizen of Minnesota so they can become engaged in the patient care partnership and make informed health decisions.

## Vision

To provide Minnesotans with the right information at the right time in the right place to improve health.

## Benefits

- ☑ Contributes to an integrated and evidence-based health care system in Minnesota.
- ☑ Enables patients to become partners in care.
- ☑ Aligns with Minnesota's healthcare reform initiatives.
- ☑ Supports continuous learning through the education process and into clinical practice.
- ☑ Encourages recruitment and retention of Minnesota's rural health providers.
- ☑ Supports collaborative and practice-based health research.
- ☑ Leverages economies of scale and buying power for equitable access to resources.
- ☑ Helps Minnesota maintain its healthy state standing.

## Fast Facts

The eHL is the only statewide health information project proposing access to all regardless of institutional affiliation or professional status.

Over 160,000 licensed health professionals and 40,000 health professions students will benefit from 24x7 access to health information.

Minnesota has over 85 post-secondary health education programs, each providing varying levels of access to health-related information resources for their faculty and students.

The eHL will provide streamlined access to resources through a single point of entry without the need for individual logins and passwords.

The projected annual cost/healthcare user for eHL resources is \$5.00 - \$10.00.

## Contact Information

Erinn Aspinall, MSI, AHIP  
Project Manager  
aspin005@umn.edu

Linda Watson, MLS, AHIP, FMLA  
Director, Health Sciences Libraries  
lwatson@umn.edu

*For a practicing physician, having up to date information as well as being able to access archived medical information is extremely important... I do not want to spend the time becoming proficient in learning how to use ... library resources only to graduate and have to start over in deciding what medical literature I am going to reference on a daily basis.*

-- Second Year Medical Student

*"I am wholeheartedly in favor of this effort... As a consumer and patient I would be thrilled to know my care providers have access to the best information no matter where they practice."*

-- Minnesota Medical Librarian

*"As consumer participation in healthcare decisions grows, making these resources available to the general public becomes essential."*

-- Minnesota Medical Librarian

### Projected eHL User Groups

eHL resources will be made available through the MINITEX Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM). This will provide access to quality health information for each of Minnesota's 5 million citizens from home, work, or local public library. eHL resources will be selected based on the specific information needs of the state's 160,000 health care providers and 40,000 health professions students. This equates to over 200,000 individuals who will directly benefit from eHL resources, including 106,000 nurses, 18,000 physicians and surgeons, and 17,000 pharmacists.



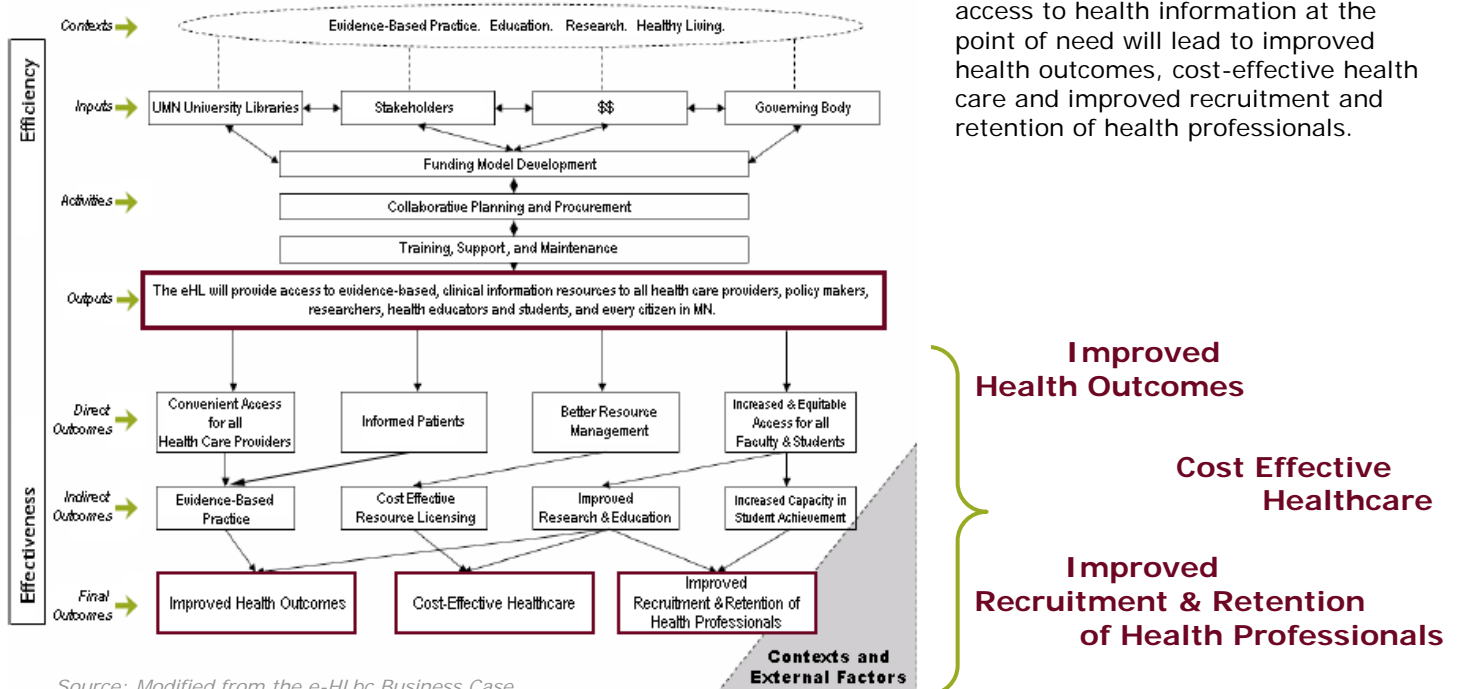
### Accomplishments to Date

- ☑ Launched My Health Minnesota → Go Local to connect Minnesotans with local health services and quality health information (August 2007).
- ☑ Began feasibility study for providing clinical information resources to Minnesota's health professionals (January 2008).
- ☑ Conducted environmental scan of area-wide clinical information licensing projects (February 2008).
- ☑ Identified best practices (April 2008).
- ☑ Prepared documentation to share with potential stakeholders (May 2008)
- ☑ Completed information needs assessment of Minnesota's health care professionals (April 2008).
- ☑ Issued Request for Information to select vendors to gather product and pricing information (June 2008).
- ☑ Analyzed responses to Requests for Information (July 2008).
- ☑ Developed funding model proposal based on vendor cost estimates (July 2008).
- ☑ Wrote final report that includes recommendations and a prioritized action plan (August 2008).

### Outcomes

The eHL will provide quality information resources to all of Minnesota's health professionals, health professions students, and all citizens in support of evidence-based practice, cost-effective resource licensing, improved research and education, and increased capacity in student achievement.

Providing affordable and equitable access to health information at the point of need will lead to improved health outcomes, cost-effective health care and improved recruitment and retention of health professionals.



Source: Modified from the e-HLbc Business Case