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Opinion: Minnesota Could Be Health IT Model for Other States

Minnesota has been a pioneer in health IT and could serve as a model for other states, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R) and Newt Gingrich (R), former speaker of the House, write in a [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) opinion piece.

Two of the world's "best examples of modernized systems are the Mayo Clinic and Park Nicollet Health Services," which both use electronic health record systems, according to Pawlenty and Gingrich. Mayo has more than 16,000 computer terminals in three facilities that providers can use to access patient EHRs, while Park Nicollet has electronically connected its six urgent-care centers and 25 community clinics.

In 2007, the state approved legislation that "mandated all hospitals and health care providers to adopt interoperable or interconnected systems by 2015," Pawlenty and Gingrich write.

The network "will be one of the largest such exchanges in the nation, serving more than three million Minnesotans and connecting doctors, hospitals and clinics across the state," according to Pawlenty and Gingrich.

The governor and former speaker conclude, "Minnesota provides shining examples of what a modernized system can be, and through hard work, it can be even better. The citizens of Minnesota deserve nothing less" (Gingrich/Pawlenty, [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#), 4/27).

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