



Electronic Referral Model for the State of Mississippi

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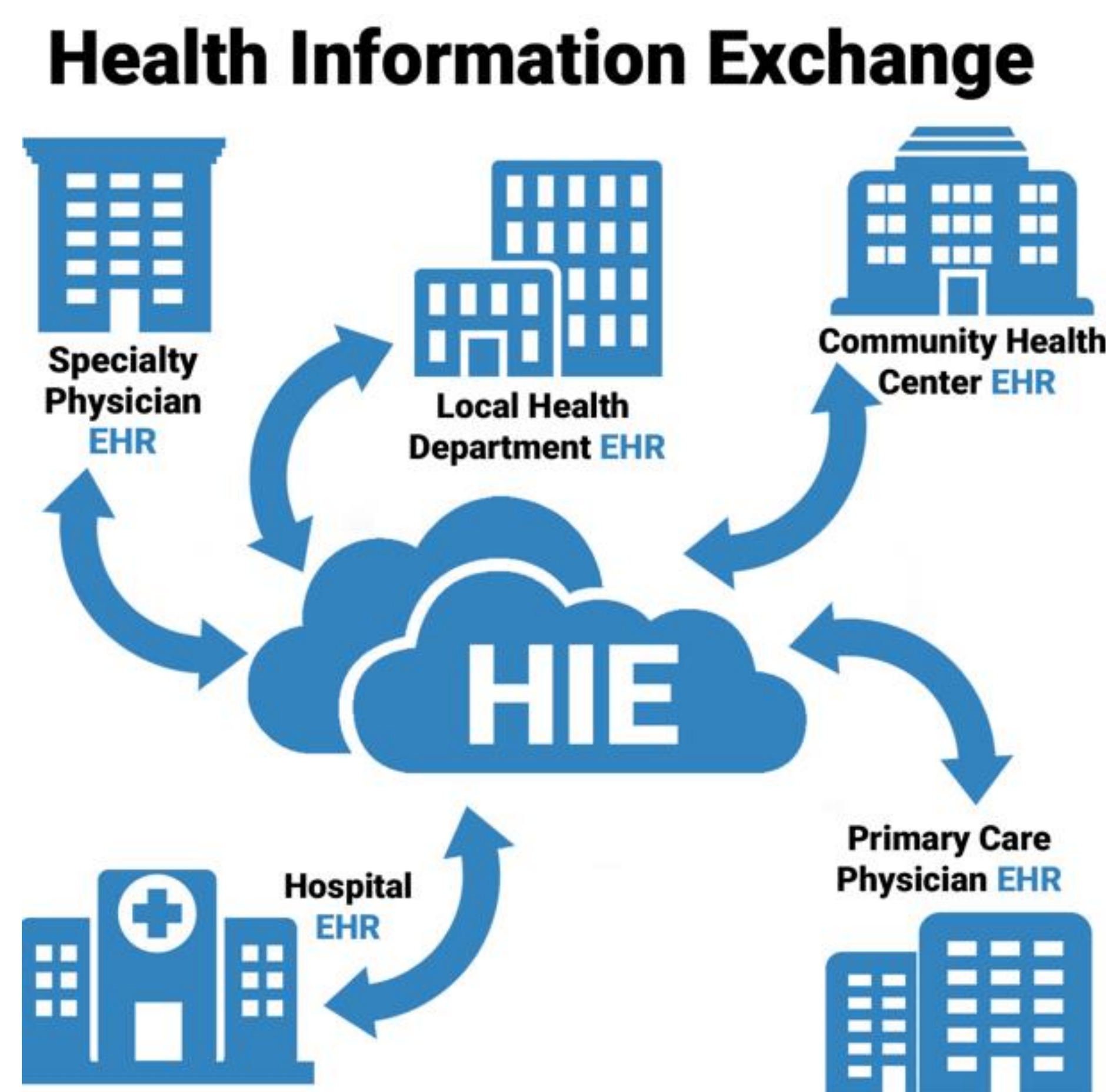


BACKGROUND

A robust and efficient referral process is critical to ensuring patient care and optimizing the allocation of healthcare resources. Many healthcare institutions face the challenge of handling a high volume of transfers due to a lack of specialist coverage at transferring facilities. Creating a referral network, that would include electronic telehealth referrals, can help alleviate some of those unnecessary transfers.

PURPOSE

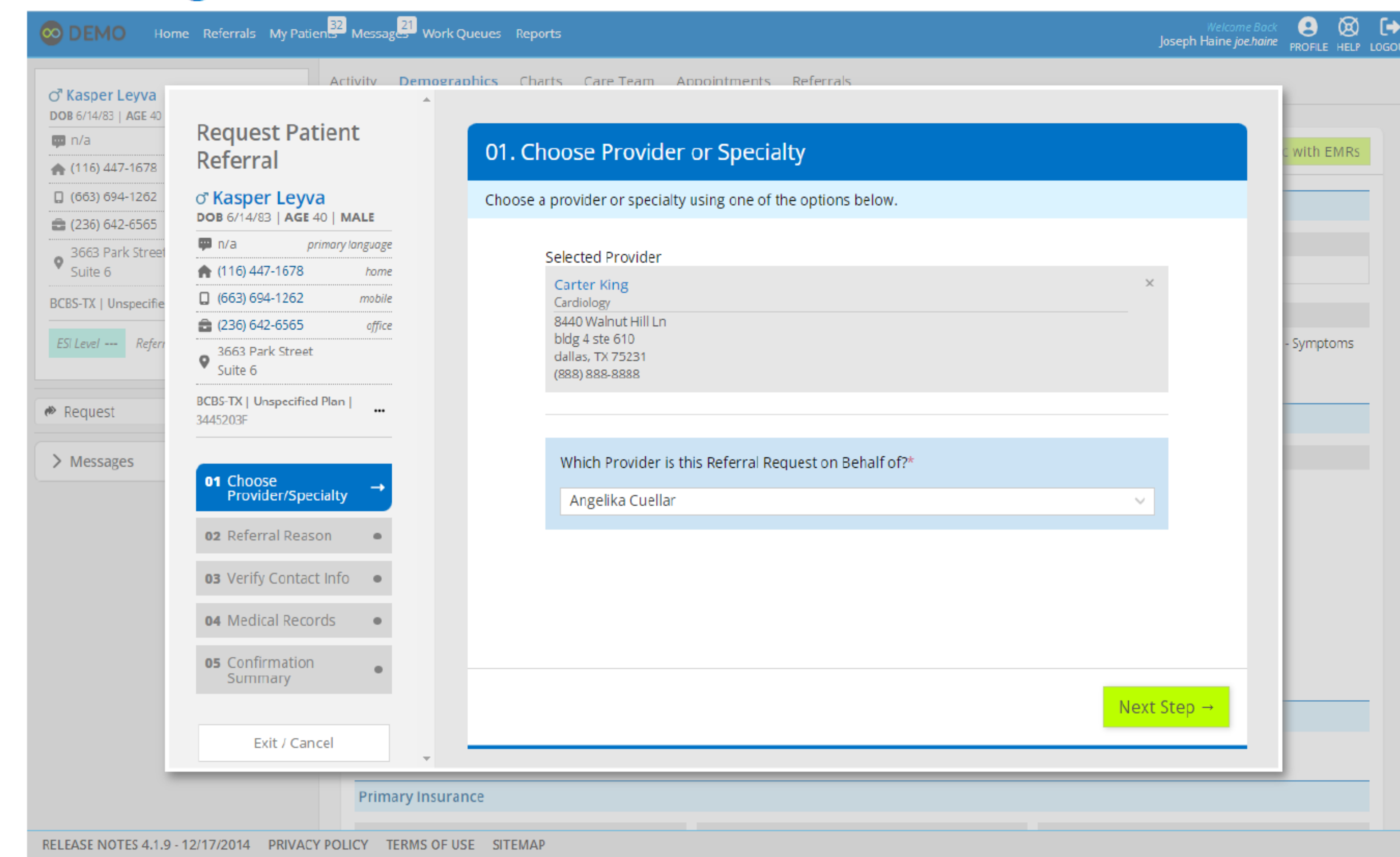
Partnering with the Mississippi Hospital Association, a referral network will be developed that will be deployed on top of the existing Health Information Exchange. The goal of the platform is to provide patients with more meaningful transfers and provide specialist meaningful clinical information. The system will help with administrative errors created by having to manually type in demographic and clinical information received from the referring facility.



METHODS

- Utilizing the existing Health Information Exchange powered by IntelliTrue.
- The Health Information Exchange currently receives 95% of hospital Admission, Discharges, and Transfer information in the state of Mississippi.
- The Health Information Exchange currently receives approximately 50% of discharge summaries and clinical notes of hospital based outpatient visits.
- The electronic referral network will sit atop of the current Health Information Exchange and introduce additional functionality.
- The system will allow the referring health system to attach clinical notes and other relevant clinical information (lab, med, allergy, etc.) to the referral.

Sending Referral



EXPECTATIONS

- The referral network will provide a unified platform for all healthcare facilities in the state of Mississippi to be able to send electronic referrals.
- This system will be able to send referrals to, and from, any other member utilizing the system.
- The system will be able to include relevant clinical documentation in the referrals.
- The system will be able to track electronic referrals to ensure completion of the referral.
- The system will be able to send post visit summaries to the referring health system to indicate what occurred at the referred facility.
- The system will incorporate a telehealth platform to enable store-and-forward consults for specialties such as Dermatology and Cardiology.
- The system will include a video platform that can be utilized for real time telehealth encounters.

CONCLUSION

The true power of a statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE) can be demonstrated when placing a mode of healthcare delivery on top of the HIE platform. With the referral network on top of the HIE, the quality of referrals will increase due to the additional clinical information that can be included in the referrals. That, plus the ability to send store-and-forward consults and real time telehealth encounters, means that patients can expect reduced wait times and quicker results from referrals that are performed utilizing this method.