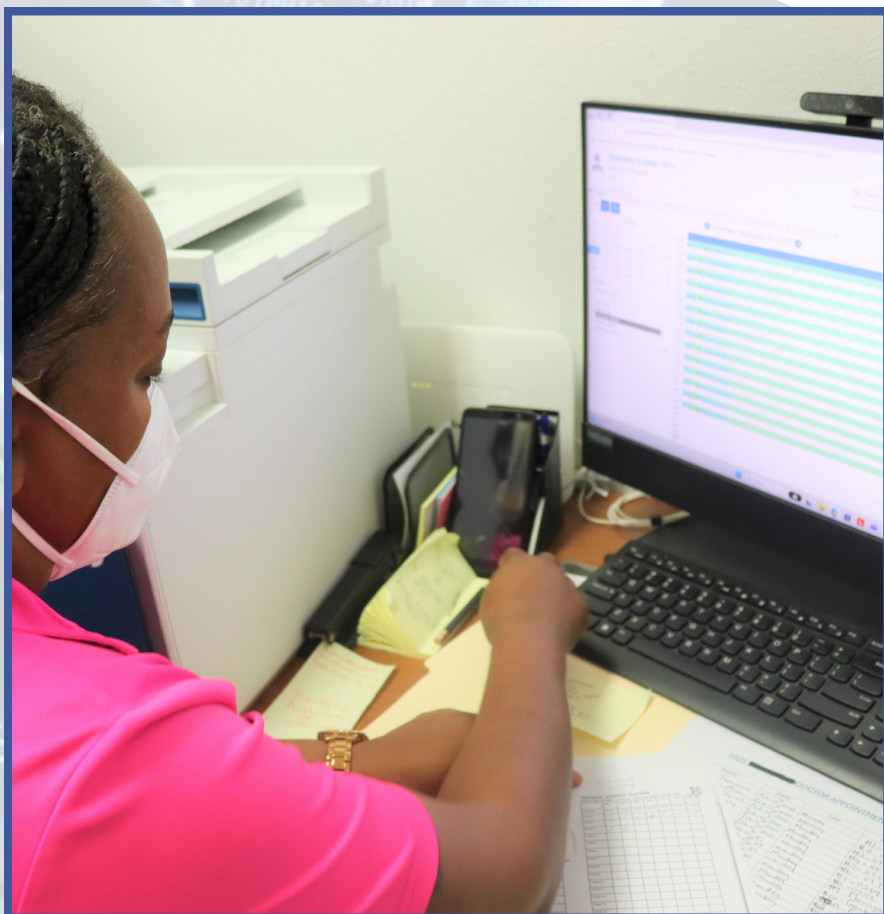




Inside IS4H Bahamas: CONNECTING TO CHANGE

May 2026

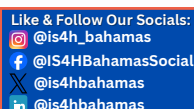
Issue #4



A SYSTEM IN FORWARD MOTION: BIG MOVES IN DIGITAL HEALTH

The pace of digital health transformation in The Bahamas is accelerating. The development of draft digital health legislation, the near completion of a Logistics Support System (LSS), and the continued rollout of BEMR and SIP+ training across health partners all signal a system in confident forward motion — one where the critical infrastructure for seamless information exchange is not just being imagined, but actively built.

Together, these milestones reflect a bold, coordinated commitment to connecting the Bahamas' digital health ecosystem in ways that will meaningfully improve care delivery for years to come.



TOP STORY

Electronic Logistics Support System: Rolling Out

The final-stage development and testing of an electronic logistics support system is crucial to the digital health upgrade because it provides real-time visibility and control over medical supply chains—reducing stockouts, improving procurement and distribution efficiency, enabling data-driven planning, and interoperating with health information systems to support timely, equitable service delivery.

In this issue, we discuss the strategy and the development process.

3

BEMR Family Island Training Tour

Training of medical and administrative personnel in Exuma, San Salvador, Bimini and Andros has been completed, with Long Island and Cat Island slated for training in the next leg of the training tour. We discuss the roll-out in this issue.

4

New Digital Health Legislation

New legislation supporting the digitalization of health information systems in The Bahamas, advanced by the IS4H Bahamas team, is critical to ensuring secure, interoperable, and efficient health data management that strengthens privacy protections, improves care coordination, and enables timely, data-driven public health decision-making. Learn more inside.

5

Three Questions: Sasha Skinner, Legal Consultant

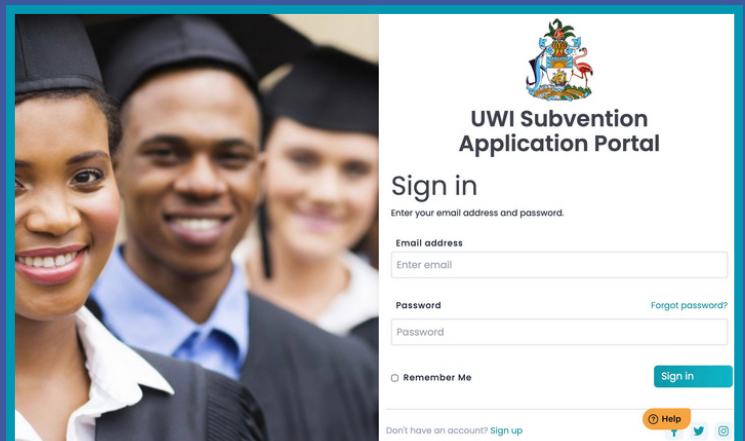
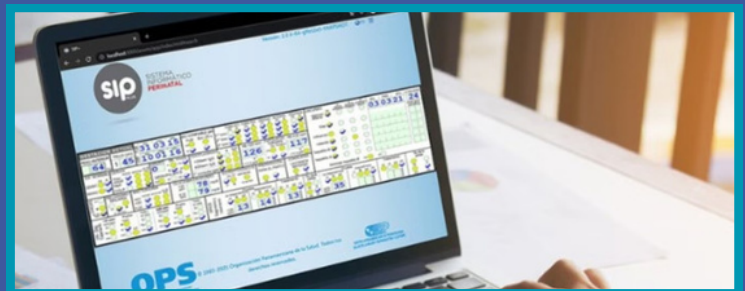
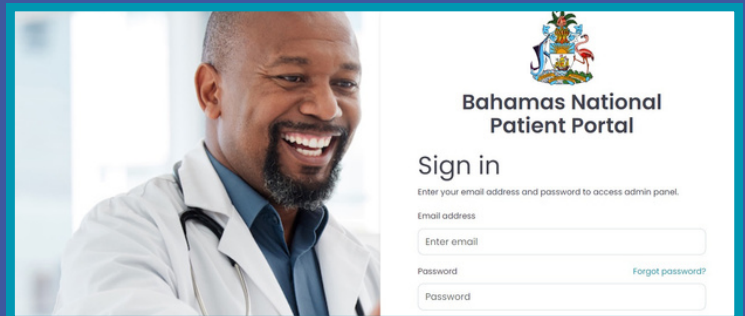


UPDATES:

- BEMR roll-out continues as training ramps up in the Family Islands
- Bugs identified and fixes implemented by ICT Team



- BNPP is adding functionality to improve operations of the Hospital Liaison Unit (HLU)
- Upgrades to the Food Handlers permitting system have been incorporated into BNPP
- 273 DPH and PHA trained on SIP+ up to April 2026 across New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands
- 19,943 records in SIP+ between data migration and ongoing record input
- IS4H Bahamas ICT created the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) University of the West Indies Subvention Scholarship Application Portal in Q1 2025
- In Q1 2026, IS4H Bahamas overhauled user interface, implemented comprehensive bug fixes and optimised workflow



MODERNIZING THE MEDICINE CABINET: The Case for an eLMIS Across Bahamian Community Clinics

The Department of Public Health (DPH) operates 58 community clinics across New Providence, Grand Bahama, and the Family Islands, serving approximately 400,000 Bahamian residents. Despite their reach, these clinics face a persistent and costly challenge: a supply chain running largely on paper.

Manual inventory management means stockouts of essential medicines go unmeasured and underreported, while an estimated \$1.6–2 million worth of medical commodities expire unused every year.

The solution is an **electronic Logistics Management Information System — or eLMIS — to be deployed across all 58 facilities by September 2026**. The IS4H Bahamas team, comprising developers, trainers, business analysts, implementation specialists, and change management professionals, will execute this rollout within a compressed seven-month window, ahead of the conclusion of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) health infrastructure programme in September 2026.

The eLMIS is being designed with operational realities firmly in mind. Interfaces will be intuitive and mobile-first, data entry requirements minimal, and the system will be hosted on vendor-managed cloud infrastructure — ensuring DPH can sustain operations independently once IS4H Bahamas support concludes. Automated FIFO (First In, First Out) inventory tracking will improve stock rotation, reduce waste, and keep commodity quality high.



By September 2026, the programme aims to:

- Achieve 90%+ eLMIS adoption among supply coordinators at all 58 clinics
- Significantly reduce medicine waste and expiration losses
- Free up clinical staff time through automation and process simplification
- Complete full knowledge transfer to the Nassau warehouse team for independent system maintenance

With a total investment estimated at \$300,000–\$400,000 — covering tablets, barcode scanners, training, and contingency — this initiative represents a lean, targeted, and time-sensitive commitment to bringing the Bahamas' community health supply chain into the digital age.

Home-Grown Innovation: Bahamian ICT Talent at the Heart of Digital Health

When the new electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS) goes live across the Department of Public Health's 58 community clinics, it will represent more than a leap forward in healthcare delivery — it will be a testament to what Bahamian ICT professionals can build, deploy, and own.

The IS4H Bahamas team developing the eLMIS is made up of local talent — developers, business analysts, trainers, implementation specialists, and project managers who understand the Bahamian healthcare landscape from the inside. This is not an off-the-shelf solution imported and installed by foreign consultants. It is a system conceived, designed, and delivered by professionals who live and work in the communities it will serve. The result is a solution *built* for The Bahamas, not merely *adapted* for it.

Beyond the immediate impact on medicine supply chains and patient care, this initiative signals something broader: that The Bahamas has the ICT capacity to tackle complex, mission-critical digital health challenges at a national scale. As the digital health ecosystem in The Bahamas continues to evolve, the professionals behind the eLMIS are not just building a system — they are building a legacy.

The IS4H Bahamas Training team continues its outreach across the Family Islands, bringing Bahamas Electronic Medical Records+ (BEMR) training to frontline health staff. To date the team has completed sessions in Exuma, Andros, Bimini, Long Island and Cat Island.

Who is trained

The training includes clerks, nurses, and doctors. Each constituency receives dedicated sessions—sometimes one day, sometimes longer—so content is targeted and practical. Every session features a complete walkthrough of the workflow for the constituency being trained, ensuring participants practice the exact tasks they will perform in clinic.

Course highlights

- Hands-on BEMR workshops tailored for clinical and administrative staff
- Practical exercises on patient registration, charting, and reporting specific to each role
- Localized support and follow-up plans to reinforce learning

IS4H Bahamas trainers' observation

Clinical staff are willing to adapt to change and embrace technological advances. They demonstrate strong medical professionalism, and the synergy between patients, clients, and staff shows a committed focus on providing excellent care.



Cat Island



Long Island

Key concern: equipment gaps hinder rollout

Despite positive reception, a critical barrier remains: insufficient hardware. Many trainees lack access to essential devices—most notably tablets—needed to run BEMR+ at point of care. This shortage prevents immediate adoption and delays expected improvements in data quality, continuity of care, and reporting.

Next steps

- Complete the Long Island training visit (pending 04/20/2026)
- Coordinate with partners and stakeholders to source tablets and other necessary equipment
- Provide continued remote support and refresher sessions to trained staff until devices are in place



Call to partners

IS4H Bahamas welcomes support from government, donors, and private partners to address the device shortfall so trained staff can implement BEMR and improve health services across the Family Islands.



As technology continues to reshape healthcare delivery around the world, The Bahamas is taking bold and deliberate steps to ensure its public health systems are not left behind. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Health & Wellness, the Department of Health and the IS4H Bahamas Unit are advancing a landmark legislative initiative — the **Health Digitalization Act, 2026** — aimed at fully integrating technology into the daily operations of the country's public healthcare systems.

Laying the Groundwork

Before any legislation could be drafted, IS4H Bahamas completed two foundational reports that set the stage for reform. The GAP Analysis Report examined weaknesses within the Bahamian healthcare system, benchmarking it against the PAHO Guiding Principles for Digital Transformation of Health Sector and the IDB Regulatory Framework Report for Digital Health in Latin America & Caribbean. Using twelve key markers, the report quantified the system's readiness for digital transformation.

Complementing this, the Benchmarking Report studied ten countries selected for their strength as implementation models, drawing on the best international global standards to inform The Bahamas' own path forward. Both reports have since been laid over for review and feedback, with the next critical step being the drafting of the Health Digitalization Bill, 2026 for Cabinet approval.

A Two-Pillar Framework

The proposed legislation is both multifunctional and multi-purposed, organized around two distinct pillars. The first is dedicated to the protection of personal health data, while the second outlines the design of infrastructure systems needed to support a fully digitalized health environment. Together, these pillars aim to build a strong data governance structure that is robust, enforceable, and capable of adapting to an ever-evolving digital landscape.

For further information, please email us: is4h@bahamas.gov.bs



What the Act Will Deliver

The Health Digitalization Act, 2026 carries significant and wide-ranging benefits for patients, healthcare providers, and the broader public. Among its most notable provisions, the Act will:

- Introduce the digitalization of health information and strengthen the protection of patient data
- Govern how Electronic Health Records are used across both public and private healthcare settings
- Establish an independent agency with the authority to supervise and enforce the regulations set out in the legislation
- Mandate penalties — including fines and imprisonment — for data breaches, building a body of jurisprudence that demonstrates effective implementation
- Regulate the international export of health data, with strict cross-border rules governing medical tourism, research, and WHO-mandated epidemiological reporting
- Empower patients with autonomy over their personal health information
- Promote open data practices within Bahamian public healthcare
- Fulfil The Bahamas' obligations under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

A Call for Stakeholder Support

The Health Digitalization Act, 2026 represents far more than a piece of legislation — it is an opportunity to fundamentally optimize the Bahamian healthcare system in line with global standards. The changes it sets in motion will reverberate across every corner of the archipelago, touching the lives of patients, clinicians, administrators, and policymakers alike. Together, the goal is to build a digital health ecosystem that is secure, equitable, and positioned to serve Bahamians for generations to come.

3 QUESTIONS:

INTERVIEWS WITH IS4H BAHAMAS

SASHA SKINNER, LEGAL CONSULTANT

Q: What is your favourite thing about the work you are doing as the legal consultant for the IS4H Bahamas

I am excited about creating sustainable long-term legal and policy infrastructure which builds real time solutions that saves lives. To date, pertinent lifesaving information has not been properly captured in manual files and records, leading to inefficient use of the data, which creates systematic risks and exposure to breaches of confidentiality. With proper digitalization of medical records, healthcare workers can review information and respond promptly to provide lifesaving, data-driven treatment. The digitized Electronic Health Record is the safe, efficient and optimized solution that delivers access of healthcare to patients while protecting their sensitive medical information with robust security controls.



Q: How is the legislation helping to push the IS4H Bahamas initiative forward?

The successful passage of the Health Digitalization Act, 2026, will provide the foundational legal and regulatory framework that will embed an important part of the national health strategy into codified law, strengthens governance and ensure compliance while providing standard interoperable data systems between digital platforms.

Policy changes derived from the legislation include stricter enforcement of confidentiality of medical information while being created, used, stored and destroyed; provision of regulations on how medical information will be used while ensuring the standardization of protection of patient confidentiality; introduction of Electronic Health Records for all users of the system; establishment of an independent agency with legislative authority to supervise and to enforce the law and policy; enforcement of penalties and fines for breaches; provision of more autonomy for system users regarding their personal health information; upgrade of systems from manual operations to gradual digitalized systems, and interoperability of digital platforms for public healthcare.

Q: How do you see the development of law and policy surrounding digital health systems in The Bahamian in the near to short-term future?

The Information Systems for Health (IS4H) mandate is to drive digital health initiatives that efficiently manage data and health information, optimize interoperability and ensure the patient's privacy within a framework that is safeguarded by strong legislation and governance. For The Bahamas, the proposed Health Digitalization Act, 2026, will work in tandem with the updated Data Protection Act to protect sensitive personal data and health information. A successful Health Digitalization Act will provide long term sustainable operational infrastructure to drive and to maintain digital transformation in the Bahamian public healthcare system.