

About the Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC)

The Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) was created by the passage of HB 2009 within the Oregon Health Authority. The Council is comprised of eleven individuals appointed by Governor Ted Kulongoski, and is charged with developing and implementing a statewide strategic plan for electronic health information exchange, coordinating public and private efforts to increase adoption of electronic health records, setting technology standards, ensuring privacy and security controls, and creating a sustainable business plan to support meaningful use of health information technology to lower costs and improve quality of care.

[HITOC Member Photos & Bios](#)

Upcoming HITOC Meetings:

Thursday, November 4, 2010
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Portland State Office Building
Room 1A
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

Thursday, December 2, 2010
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Portland State Office Building
Room 1D
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

First Round of EHR Systems Receive Certification

The Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONC) has developed a temporary certification program to assure the availability of Certified EHR Technology before eligible health care providers seeking meaningful use incentive payments would begin to report demonstrable meaningful use of Certified EHR Technology. Three organizations, [Certification Commission for Health Information Technology](#) (CCHIT), [Drummond Group, Inc.](#), and [InfoGard Laboratories, Inc.](#), received designations as Authorized Testing and Certification Bodies (ATCB) by ONC in September.

As of October 15, CCHIT and Drummond had certified more than 45 modular or complete EHR products. The [Certified HIT Product List](#) (CHPL) on the ONC website provides a comprehensive listing of Complete EHRs and EHR Modules that have been tested and certified under the Temporary Certification Program. Each Complete EHR and EHR Module listed has been certified by an Authorized Testing and Certification Body (ATCB) and reported to ONC. The CHPL is updated frequently as newly certified products are reported to ONC.

It is critical for providers purchasing EHR systems to be assured that the systems they purchase offer the necessary technological capability, functionality, and security to help them meet the meaningful use criteria. Providers and patients must also be confident that the electronic health IT products and systems they use are secure, can maintain data confidentially, and can work with other systems to share information. Confidence in health IT systems is an important part of advancing health IT system adoption and allowing for the realization of the benefits of improved patient care.

Eligible professionals and eligible hospitals who seek to qualify for incentive payments under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs are required by statute to use Certified EHR Technology. Once certified, Complete EHRs and EHR Modules can be used by eligible professionals and eligible hospitals, or be combined, to meet the statutory requirement for Certified EHR Technology.

This information is from the [ONC website](#).

November Workgroup Meetings

Please visit the [HITOC website](#) for information on meeting times and locations. Below are the tentatively scheduled topics for upcoming workgroup meetings.

Legal and Policy

Nov. 9: Accountability & Oversight: Privacy & Security Standards

Nov. 17: Accountability & Oversight: Monitoring and Enforcement

Finance

Nov. 10: Prioritize HIE Services; Start-Up Financing; Service vs. Utility Financing

Nov. 23: Draft Cost and Revenue Projections; Financing Options and Issues

Technology

Nov. 18: Confirm HIE Core Services Requirements; Gather Feedback on Preliminary HIE Core Services Specifications

Nov. 30: Confirm HIE Core Services Specifications

Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentives Program Update

Do you have questions about electronic health records and the Medicare & Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs? The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is the federal agency establishing these incentive programs. The CMS website is the official federal source for facts about the Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. Get the facts from the federal source - the CMS Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs website - <http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/>.

In Oregon, the Medicaid Health Information Technology project (MHIT) is responsible for developing and implementing Oregon's Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. CMS has given states some discretion on certain areas of the Medicaid EHR incentive program, including how to calculate patient volume for eligible providers and whether four CMS specified meaningful use menu items should be moved to the core list of objectives. MHIT will be sending out a brief survey in the next few weeks to gather stakeholder input on these discretionary decisions. If you would be interested in participating in the survey please email medicaid-hit.project@state.or.us by November 1.

O-HITEC, Oregon's Regional Extension Center, will provide assistance, education, outreach, and technical assistance to help providers select, successfully implement, and meaningfully use certified EHR technology to improve the quality and value of health care. More information on O-HITEC and its services can be found on the [O-HITEC Web site](#).

OHSU Health IT Program Enrolls Unprecedented Numbers of Students

The [OHSU biomedical informatics graduate program](#) welcomed a total of 95 new students this fall. This matriculating class includes 4 PhD, 25 Master's, and 66 Graduate Certificate students. Much of the growth is fueled by the [University-Based Training \(UBT\) Grant](#) from the [Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT \(ONC\)](#).

Of the 25 Master's students, 19 are in the clinical informatics track and 6 are in the bioinformatics and computational biology track. Of the 19 in the clinical informatics track, 10 are on-campus and 9 are distance-learning students. Of the 10 on-campus master's students, 8 are funded by the new ONC UBT grant. All of the Graduate Certificate students are distance-learning students, with 36 funded by the UBT grant.

The 8 Master's and 36 Graduate Certificate students starting the UBT program join 12 other Graduate Certificate students who started in the summer quarter. This brings the total UBT enrollment to 56 students. [Applications are now being accepted](#) for those who wish to apply for Graduate Certificate UBT funding starting in the winter quarter. Visit the [blog](#) of Dr. Bill Hersh, Professor and Chair, Department of Medical Informatics & Clinical Epidemiology, Oregon Health & Science University for more information.

Contact Information

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Recent Articles of Interest

1. [Patients should receive easily understood HIE privacy notices](#) (*Government Health IT*)
2. [ONC Eliminates Certain Public Health Provisions in EHR Rule](#) (*iHealthBeat*)
3. [Blumenthal warns of risk of EHR digital divide](#) (*Government Health IT*)