

Health Information Technology Oversight Council

**March
2010
Update**

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 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 Members

Upcoming HITOC Meetings

Thursday, April 1, 2010

1:00 pm – 5:00pm
Portland State Office Building 1A
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

Thursday, May 6, 2010

1:00 pm – 5:00pm
Portland State Office Building 1A
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

2010 Meeting Schedule

Upcoming Workgroup Meetings

March 25 – meeting cancelled

Thursday, April 8, 2010

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Oregon State Library
250 Winter St NE Rm 103
Salem, OR 97301-3950

Oregon Continues to be Ahead of National EHR Adoption Rates

A recently released survey finds that Oregon continues to see higher electronic health record adoption rates among clinicians than national figures.

The Oregon Electronic Health Records (EHR) survey asked ambulatory practices and clinics about their use of EHRs and electronic practice management (EPM) systems serving their clinicians. The survey found that 65% of clinicians in Oregon are in practices with an EHR system, compared with national data for 2009 indicating that 44% of office-based physicians were using any EHR system. Similar comparisons have shown Oregon to be ahead of national trends since 2006, when 53% of Oregon's clinicians reported having EHR systems.

The 2009 Oregon survey also looked at different levels of EHR systems within practices and clinics. When comparing "basic" or "fully functional" EHR systems the difference between Oregon and national adoption rates was even greater:

- 48% of Oregon clinicians are in an ambulatory practice with a basic EHR system, compared with 20.5% of physicians in office-based practices nationally; and
- 32% of Oregon clinicians are in a practice with a fully functional EHR system, compared to only 6% nationally.

The Oregon Electronic Health Records (EHR) Survey was produced by the Office of Oregon Health Policy and Research in partnership with David M. Witter, Jr. of Witter & Associates. The 2009 survey was mailed in February 2009 to 2,273 Oregon ambulatory clinics and physician practices, and was completed by 57% of practices and clinics. The final survey was released March 5, 2010. The full report can be accessed at <http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HITOC/docs/OR2009EHRSurvey.pdf>

HIO Stakeholder Meeting

April 15

9 am to noon

**Northwest Viticulture Center at Eola,
215 Doaks Ferry Road NW Salem, Oregon**

Please join us for a Health Information Exchange Stakeholder Meeting specifically developed to receive input from Health Information Organizations (current and developing) in Oregon. This meeting is open to the public, but the focus of the conversation will be on the work of Health Information Organizations, Integrated Delivery Networks and PACs in Oregon.

Attending on April 15 will give you an opportunity to:

- Learn the most recent information on national, state and regional HIE planning efforts;
- Provide input on Oregon's Strategic and Operational HIE Plans; and
- Increase communications with other regional health information exchange efforts and the State.

RSVP to HITOC.info@state.or.us by April 9, 2010 so that we can send you the background materials. Directions can be found here: <http://www.chemeketa.edu/aboutus/locations/eola/flocation.html>.

Soon to be announced, HITOC will be hosting an additional stakeholder meeting with a strong focus on consumer interests in health information exchange. Information on that meeting will be posted on the [HITOC website](#) and included in the April 2010 Update.

What's Happening Around Oregon?

Each month in the HITOC newsletter we hope to highlight Health Information Exchange (HIE) activities around Oregon. HITOC is committed to leveraging the existing activity in the state, so we will continue to share information about the work already in place or being planned. This month we look to Oregon's Coast.

The Bay Area Community Informatics Agency (BACIA) had its beginnings through a 2004 federal grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The initial goals were to reduce healthcare costs and improve patient satisfaction through the sharing of patient data (labs, transcription, pathology and radiation transcription) to eliminate the repetition of expensive tests. Patients can also have better understanding of their test results because the results can be easily shared at the point of care.

The Medicity ProAccess application was chosen for BACIA Health Information Exchange because ProAccess has the technological capability to cross map patients even though different patient identifiers are used by different facilities. Exchange of patient information has been successfully implemented between three facilities: Bay Area Hospital, North Bend Medical Center and Bay Clinic.

BACIA is having conversations with local clinics and providers to expand participation. Proposed product expansion includes the addition of connectivity to a Pharmacy Clearing-house to support the functionality of e-prescribing, as well as the exploration of the use of Novo Grid to share information with physician practices.

LATEST FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

HHS Unveils Proposed Certification Rule

On March 2, 2010 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Establishment of Certification Programs for Health Information Technology](#) (Health IT). The rule first proposes the creation of a temporary certification program for Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and EHR modules. This serves as a bridge to the second, permanent certification proposal, which establishes detailed guidelines to support an ongoing program of testing and certification of health IT. The meaningful use of certified EHR technology is a requirement for qualifying for incentive payments under the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentives program. The temporary program assures the availability of Certified EHR Technology prior to the date on which health care providers may begin demonstrating meaningful use.

The public comment period will last for 30 days on the proposed rule for temporary certification and 60 days for the permanent certification after publication in the Federal Register. Formal feedback can be submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov> during the public comment period. Visit the [Health IT Buzz](#) blog for Dr. Blumenthal's complete posting.
[reprinted from Minnesota e-Health Update for the Week of March 8, 2010]

HITOC Stakeholder Webinars Friday, April 2, 9:30 – 10:30 am Friday, April 30, 2 – 3 pm

Each stakeholder webinar will include updates on the work being done by HITOC and the Strategic Workgroup. There will also be opportunities for stakeholder input, with a different focus for each webinar.

On April 2 we will be reviewing the input on technology. The topic for April 30 will be announced by mid-April.

Signup information will be posted on the HITOC website on the [Stakeholder Engagement and Webinar page](#).

Recent Articles of Interest

- [Meaningful Use Tops Lists of Concerns](#) (iHealthBeat)
- [Smaller practices could face barriers in meeting meaningful use](#) (iHealthBeat)
- [Consumers weigh in on top 10 meaningful use arguments](#) (HealthcareITNews)

Contact Information

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