

Health Information Technology Oversight Council

**October
2009
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. It 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.

The Council is comprised of eleven individuals appointed by Governor Ted Kulongoski, who bring the diverse experience outlined by the legislation in health information technology as well as in health care delivery, policy and research. They represent consumer and business perspectives, public and private sectors, and the geographic and demographic differences of Oregon's health care providers and the patients they serve.

[HITOC Members](#)

Upcoming HITOC Meetings

Thursday, November 5, 2009

1:00 pm – 5:00pm
NW Vitaculture Center
212 Doaks Ferry Road
Salem, Oregon

Wednesday December 9, 2009

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

[2010 Meeting Schedule](#)

Oregon Applies for Federal State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program

By Carol Robinson, State Coordinator, Health Information Exchange Director, Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC)

On October 15th, the Oregon Office of Health Policy & Research (OHPR), on behalf of Governor Ted Kulongoski and the eleven citizen members of the Governor's appointed Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC), submitted an application to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) for an \$8.58 million cooperative agreement grant program. The funding will help support a thorough and transparent process to develop a sustainable statewide health information exchange (HIE) with the support of both public and private stakeholders across Oregon.

While the national debate on health reform continues to capture the airwaves, many people believe that the portion of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) directed to expanding HIE through the cooperative agreement grants and provider incentive payments will be the most significant health reform to move through Congress in this cycle, with the potential to lower the escalation of costs and improve the quality of health care for Americans through the tools of health information technology.

In Oregon, the HITOC is charged with creating a strategic and operational plan for statewide HIE, to be submitted to the ONC by July 15, 2010. Seven objectives have been identified as critical to the project, summarized as follows:

- Engaging stakeholders in a trusting and collaborative process
- Bringing an Oregon HIE into operation with a broad-based stakeholder governance model and a sustainable and fair financing plan
- Ensuring the Oregon HIE is designed to coordinate effectively with Medicaid and Medicare plans to maximize the number of providers receiving federally-approved meaningful use incentives
- Leveraging current investments in regional HIEs, with adoption of interoperability standards that meet federal guidelines
- Protecting the privacy and security of Oregonians' personal health information through rigorous standards and oversight
- Developing and maintaining a meticulous accountability structure of the Oregon HIE, with thorough auditing processes and evaluative measures linked to quality improvements
- Maintaining a dedicated focus on improving the health care and health outcomes for Oregon's most vulnerable populations through an emphasis and commitment to the common good

The expected outcomes of the Oregon HIE project are closely linked to the broad health reforms in House Bill 2009, recently passed by the Oregon Legislature, with improvements in the efficiency and quality of care, reductions in duplicative testing, increased electronic communications between payers and providers for eligibility, claims processing and billing, better public health surveillance and preparedness,

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improved patient experience through more coordinated care and personal health records, and ultimately lower per-capita costs of health care in Oregon.

Working under a very short time line explicit in ONC's cooperative agreement program, the HITOC is developing a work plan aimed at achieving systematic deliverables beginning with the ONC approval of a strategic and operational plan and moving to the effective integration of regional HIE capabilities and state agency systems to support the electronic exchange of health information, including: eligibility and claims transactions; e-prescribing and prescription fill status; clinical laboratory ordering and results delivery; public health reporting; quality reporting; and clinical summary exchange.

HITOC understands that the first steps necessary for the implementation of a statewide HIE will be to ensure that data can be effectively transmitted across secure connections, and that providers are able to afford the certified technology that meets federal standards. Strategies, including partnering with OCHIN and OHSU, Oregon Health Network and numerous other stakeholders in the health care delivery system across the state will be employed to make certain the Oregon's health care providers will meet meaningful use standards and will have the technical infrastructure and technical assistance they need to receive enhanced reimbursements.

National HIT News

Meeting of HIT Standards Committee Implementation Workgroup on October 29, 2009

The Implementation Workgroup will be hearing testimony from stakeholder groups, such as purchasers, vendors, and users, on health information technology adoption experiences with the proposed standards. The Workgroup intends to monitor the adoption rate of proposed standards, identify opportunities to accelerate implementation, and establish a continuous feedback loop on the development of new or revised standards.

In addition to soliciting verbal and formal written comments at the hearing, the Workgroup will use a Web-based tool to engage the public.

Written submissions may also be made to the contact person from October 29th until November 12, 2009.

Details: The meeting will be held on October 29, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m./Eastern Time.

Further information including materials and contact information can be obtained from <http://healthit.hhs.gov/standardscommittee>

(From Minnesota e-Health Update for the Week of October 26, 2009)

HITOC Workgroups

Determining the needed workgroups and stakeholder input process will be part of the HITOC's agenda over the next couple of months, as they review governance models for a statewide HIE.

If you are signed up to receive notices from the [HITOC website](#), you will be sent an email when various workgroups are being formed, and the process for applying to serve on a workgroup.

Recent Articles of Interest

[Standards Committee Hears from Providers](#) (IHealthBeat)

[Barriers to electronic exchange of lab results](#) (HealthcareIT News)

Contact Information

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