

## 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 the governor, 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, March 3, 2011  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Oregon State Library, Rooms  
102-103  
250 Winter St. NE  
Salem OR 97302

Thursday, April 7, 2011  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Oregon State Library, Rooms  
102-103  
250 Winter St NE  
Salem OR 97301

## HITOC Chooses to Delay Establishment of State- Designated Entity for HIE

### *Oregon Health Authority will carry out initial stages of information exchange*

At its February 3 meeting, HITOC decided not to pursue legislation to establish a state-designated entity (SDE) for health information exchange in Oregon during the 2011 Legislative session, given the uncertainty surrounding the state budget and health system transformation.

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber has named a team to examine the transformation of the state's health care system. Given the changing dynamics, HITOC decided it would be prudent to wait to see how things evolve over the next 12 - 18 months before the designation of an SDE.

This action defers a decision on moving the HIE implementation to an SDE and maintains the current HITOC-led planning and implementation setup. Minor statutory changes to HITOC's authority will be pursued to ensure an effective and stable governance structure.

Oregon's HIE strategic and operational plans, approved by the federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, call for the designation of an SDE during Phase 1 of the plan's implementation. HITOC agreed to revisit the delay within the next 18 months.

HITOC Chairman Steve Gordon is a member of the state's transformation team, giving HIT and HIE a role in this critical planning around health care delivery.

## First Oregon Medical Homes Recognized by National Accreditors

Three independent physician practices are the first in Oregon to receive [National Commission for Quality Assurance](#) recognition as [Patient-Centered Medical Homes](#). The clinics, [Chehalem Medical Clinic](#) in Newberg, [Pacific Medical Group](#) in Tigard and [Davies Clinic, P.C.](#) in Canby, were each notified recently that they have met the NCQA Recognition standards.

These three are the first practices statewide to receive qualified recognition based on national standards. The standards require clinical and data review, and implementation of diligently coordinated care that is facilitated by care teams, registries, information technology, health information exchange and other means to assure that patients get the indicated care when and where they need it.

"This NCQA designation recognizes what family practice has always been and should be," said William Bailey, M.D. of [Chehalem Medical Clinic](#), the very first NQCA recognized patient-centered medical home in Oregon. "This is what we mean by cradle-to-grave care; we coordinate for the patient because we, as family practice doctors, are trained to take care of 90 to 95 percent of people's health concerns."

## Markle Survey Shows Support for HIE Among Both Doctors and Consumers

Doctors and patients overwhelmingly agree on key requirements for information technology (IT) to increase the quality, safety, and cost-efficiency of care, as well as core privacy protections, according to a national survey released by the Markle Foundation.

The Markle Survey of Health in a Networked Life compares the core values of physicians and the general public on deployment of information technology in health care. It comes at the start of a new federal program to help doctors and hospitals upgrade from paper to electronic health records.

"Doctors and patients agree on the importance of putting accurate information in their hands to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of health care," Markle President Zoë Baird said.

"A surprising 74 percent of doctors say they want to be able to share patient information with other professionals electronically. As medical professionals shift from paper records to electronic systems, this survey shows that the public and physicians overwhelmingly agree that we need to measure the payoff from investments in information technology in terms of better health and more cost-efficient care," Baird said.

Complete results can be found at [www.markle.org](http://www.markle.org).

### Medicaid HIT Plan Submitted

Oregon's Medicaid HIT team submitted its State Medicaid HIT Plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Jan. 31. The document lays out Oregon's plans for implementing and managing the Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program, which will provide eligible providers and hospitals with incentive payments for the meaningful use of EHRs.

The proposed plan is now in the hands of CMS officials, who must approve it.

The team is now working on an Implementation Advance Planning Document (IAPD), which will provide the details for carrying out the SMHP. It is due at the end of February.

### 'Direct Project' Pilots for Messaging Go Live

The [Direct Project](#), which promotes direct clinical messaging, has pilot projects live in Minnesota and Rhode Island.

- VisionShare enables Hennepin County Medical Center to send immunization information to the Minnesota Department of Health. Testing of immunization (or syndromic surveillance) communication to a public health agency is a requirement for meaningful use incentives.
- Rhode Island Quality Institute has implemented provider-to-provider health information exchange supporting meaningful use objectives with Dr. Al Puerini and members of the [Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation](#).

And innovative pilot projects in New York, Tennessee and California are scheduled to go live later this month.

For more information, see the [Direct Project Security Overview](#) and [Direct Project Overview Presentation](#).

### Contact Information

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### Recent Articles of Interest

- [Medical homes](#) in Oregon (Oregonian)
- [EHRs certified for meaningful use hit 350](#) (Health Data Management)
- [CMS listserv will email notices about EHR incentive programs](#) (Health Data Management)