

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, July 7, 2011

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

NO AUGUST MEETING

Thursday, September 8, 2011

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

CMS Letter to State Medicaid Directors Prompts New Strategy to Finance HIE Planning

HITOC's Finance Workgroup, along with HITOC itself, will be busy this summer responding to guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) about the way federal funding can be spent on implementing and operating health information exchange (HIE).

The CMS Letter to State Medicaid Directors (SMD) issued May 18, 2011, significantly changes the requirements for Medicaid's participation in financing of HIE development, infrastructure and operating costs. The SMD letter accelerates the financial sustainability planning process and the need to engage key stakeholders in developing a Fair Share approach to financing in order to maximize the opportunity for Medicaid participation, including federal dollars, in HIE development and financing.

HITOC will need to consider the implications of the SMD letter on Oregon's strategic and operational plans for HIE. It asked its Finance Workgroup to start the groundwork on exploring those issues during July and August.

Key points in the letter include:

- Federal dollars, including Medicaid funding, cannot be the sole funding source for building, implementing or operating HIE infrastructure or services.
- Costs should be divided equitably across private and commercial payers in accordance with benefits received.
- Governance and risks with developing HIE infrastructure should not be borne by a sole payer, and stakeholder involvement is the only way to ensure that the infrastructure meets each state's specific assets/challenges.



Embark on a Health IT Journey at June 30 Workshop

The Oregon Medical Association, with support from the Oregon Health Authority and other stakeholders, is sponsoring a series of educational workshops on health information technology (HIT). The first is on Thursday, June 30 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

The series is designed around the journey health care providers go through to adopt and successfully use HIT. The first, introductory session will cover the most up-to-date information and resources about the health IT landscape, terminology and organizations in Oregon. The seminars are designed for Oregon health care providers practicing with or without an electronic medical record, and their staffs.

Participants can attend at OMA headquarters in Portland, at a remote webcast location in Gresham or Pendleton, or via webcast on their own computers. OMA is located at 11740 SW 68th Parkway, Suite 100, in Portland; its phone number is (503) 619-8000.

The remote webcasts hosted live with local moderators will be at MHCC Gresham and BMCC Pendleton. To register online go to <http://www.theoma.org/formpage.asp?formid=136>

This series is produced and presented by a collaboration of Oregon and federally funded Health IT programs and organizations.

Public Hearing on Oregon Medicaid Administrative Rules Set for June 17

[The proposed Oregon Administrative Rules \(OARs\)](#) for Oregon's Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program were posted for comment on May 12, 2011, with a deadline of June 21, 2011. A public hearing is scheduled for Friday, June 17, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. in the state's Human Services Building, Room 137C, 500 Summer Street NE, Salem.

The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program administrative rules govern Division of Medical Assistance Programs payments to certain providers. The Division intends to adopt the rules to carry out the EHR incentive payment program, which disburses payments to certain Medicaid providers who adopt, implement or upgrade (and who later also become meaningful users of) certified electronic health record systems.

The rules outline the incentive program criteria for participation of eligible professionals and eligible hospitals in the program.

The [proposed rules](#) are available on the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program website.

Summer HITOC, Workgroup Schedules Adjusted

HITOC will not meet in August. Also, its September 1 meeting has been changed to September 8.

Several HITOC workgroup meetings have also changed for June. Workgroups meeting in June are:

Finance Group: June 27

E-Prescribing Ad hoc Group: June 30

See the latest [public notice](#) for details about where the meetings will be held. Be sure to check the HITOC website for the latest scheduling.



CMS Proposes New Flexibility for Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced on June 1 a proposed rule for the Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program that would give more flexibility to providers who are adopting electronic prescribing systems.

The proposal would provide exemptions from the payment adjustment for providers who plan to participate in the program but who face certain barriers to using electronic prescribing systems or meeting program requirements that may be beyond their control.

CMS' [proposed rule on electronic prescribing](#) is available for public review and comment until July 25, 2011.

For more information about the Electronic Prescribing Incentive Program, visit <http://www.cms.gov/ErxIncentive>.

Contact Information

Health Information Technology Oversight Council
Carol Robinson, Director
700 Summer St. Suite 125
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-373-7859
Fax: 503-378-5511
Email: HITOC.info@state.or.us
Web: <http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/OHPR/HITOC>

Recent Articles of Interest

- [HIT Policy Committee Approves Conditional Delay in Stage 2 MU](#) (Health Data Management)
- [Direct Project steaming ahead](#) (Government Health IT)
- [States' Role in Promoting Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records](#) (Commonwealth Fund)