

**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.

**Upcoming Events:****HITOC Meeting**

Thursday, December 1, 2011  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Portland State Ofc. Bldg. Rm 1D  
800 NE Oregon St.  
Portland, OR

**HITOC Meeting**

Thursday, January 5, 2012  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Portland State Ofc. Bldg. Rm 1B  
800 NE Oregon St.  
Portland, OR

**HIE Core Services Intent to Award is Established**  
Notice of Intent to Award Goes to Harris Corp. of Florida

The Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) is in the final stages of choosing a contractor to implement health information exchange core services in Oregon. A notice of award went out to Harris Corp., a Florida-based communications and IT firm. The selection process is not yet complete, however. Once the award is made final, contract negotiations between OHIT and the contractor begin.

During Phase 1 of the HIE core services contract, the vendor will be responsible for developing a Direct Exchange Web Portal service enabling enrolled eligible providers or participants the ability to securely send and receive electronic health information to and from any other enrolled eligible provider. Phase II will expand HIE services enabling capabilities such as the query or lookup of patient records through Master Patient Index Record Locator services, EHR-to-EHR health information exchange, connectivity to federal systems such as the VA and SSA, and interface connectivity among Public Health, health insurance exchange, Medicaid and other state systems.

**First EHR Incentive Program Payments Go to Providers**  
Medicaid HIT incentives now flowing to physicians around state

Dr. Kenneth Carlson, a pediatrician at Childhood Health Associates of Salem was one of the first in the state to receive an EHR incentive payment under the Medicaid program. “Using electronic health records to help us better track a patient’s care can lead us towards improving health outcomes,” he said.

In the first weeks of the program, 16 providers from four clinics have received payments, including Dr. Carlson’s clinic, Childhood Health Associates of Salem; La Clinica del Valle, a Medford based clinic; and physicians in Klamath Falls and Bend. Since the launch of the program in late September, more 100 applications have been submitted.

“My colleagues and I are excited to be one of the first in the state to receive our incentive check,” said Dr. Carlson. “But it’s important for all eligible providers that qualify to apply. Technology helps to organize a patient’s health information for easy and secure access, supporting better decisions in the exam room.”

Hospitals and health care providers interested in applying for the Medicaid EHR Incentives program can visit [www.MedicaidEHRIncentives.gov](http://www.MedicaidEHRIncentives.gov) to learn more.

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## **First Regional HIMSS meeting coming up Nov. 14 and 15**

Sessions will cover a wide range of health information technology topics

The Pacific Northwest chapters of the Health Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS Oregon and Washington) are hosting their first Technology and Education Symposium in Portland Nov. 14-15, 2011. The theme of the conference is "Connected Communities of Care," with sessions on how technology is advancing the health care reform movement toward accountability across the public, private, provider, payer, and patient communities.

Speakers include Jack Friedman, Chief Executive Officer, Providence Health Plans, on Nov. 14. On Nov. 15 attendees will hear from Brian DeVore, Director of Industry Affairs at Intel and member of HITOC, along with Dr. Alan Bates, Oregon State Senator and practicing physician.

Breakout Sessions will cover EPIC, social media, ICD-10, virtualization, security, medication reconciliation and cloud computing.

Register on the [conference website](#).

### **Consent subcommittee starts discussions on implementation**

In September 2011, HITOC voted to approve the staff recommendation to defer the proposed Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) to implement the opt-out consent policy for health information exchange in Oregon.

Several timing considerations factored into that decision, including the need to gather more information on the technical details of implementing the consent policy in provider offices; the need to monitor and align with other state health reform efforts underway; the evolving HIE and consent management landscape nationally; and Oregon's phased approach to HIE using Direct secure messaging.

A Consent Implementation Subcommittee has been formed with representation from HITOC's Legal & Policy Workgroup, the Consumer Advisory Panel, and targeted community organizations, to begin to address the technical issues and questions around implementation.

Its first meeting was held on Nov. 10. Follow the panel's schedule and meeting activity on the [HITOC website](#).

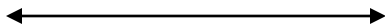
## Institute of Medicine Proposes Oversight for Health IT

Potential for medical errors from HIT at issue

The Institute of Medicine on Nov. 8 [released a report](#) calling for increased oversight of health information technology to reduce any potential for patient safety risks. The report calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan on minimizing patient safety risks associated with health IT and report annually on progress being made. It also calls for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be ready to regulate health information technologies if necessary.

“Just as the potential benefits of health IT are great, so are the possible harms to patient safety if these technologies are not being properly designed and used,” Gail Warden, president emeritus of Henry Ford Health System and chair of the committee that wrote the report, said in an IOM release.

The panel also called for a new Health IT Safety Council and reporting requirements for vendors and users to report health-IT related deaths, injuries or unsafe conditions.



## Recent Articles of Interest

- [ONC Extends Temporary EHR Certification Program](#) (Health Data Management)
- [Many Doctors Think EHRs are Safer than Paper Records](#) (Beckers Hospital Review)
- [Survey Points to Low Average Investment in Data Security](#) (Government Health IT)

### Health Information Technology Oversight Council

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## New HITOC members Nominated by Governor Kitzhaber

Gov. John Kitzhaber has nominated two new members to HITOC. Their nominations go the state Senate for confirmation on Nov. 16:

- Carolyn Lawson, chief information officer for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Human Services
- Ellen Larson, RN, Director of the Hood River County Health Department

Lawson joined OHA July 1. Before taking this position, Lawson was director of the California eServices office and deputy director of the Technology Services and Governance Division. Previously, Lawson was CIO at the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and also has served in other leadership roles.

Larsen has served as the director of Hood River County Health Department for more than 12 years and has committed more than 24 years of her career to public health. Larsen is also involved with the community and is the chair of the Conference of Local Health Officials (CLHO) Information Management Subcommittee.