

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, October 6, 2011
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Oregon State Library, Rooms
102-103
250 Winter St. NE
Salem, OR

HITOC Meeting

Thursday, November 3, 2011
Portland State Office Bldg., Rm.
1D
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, OR

AIM Conference Draws Big Audience for National Speakers

Oregon's first health IT conference combines art, technology and policy

Nearly 450 people came to the Oregon Convention Center Sept. 14 to hear the nation's top health IT official, Dr. Farzad Mostashari, and other national, state and local figures speak about the latest in the field, emphasizing the need to keep the patient in mind. Dr. Mostashari, National Coordinator for Health IT, discussed his agency's new campaign to "[Put the I in Health IT.](#)"

Attendees also heard from Dr. Bruce Goldberg, director of the Oregon Health Authority, speak about the health care system transformation project under way in Oregon. Both Dr. Goldberg and Carol Robinson, Administrator of Oregon's Office of Health Information Technology, noted the importance of health IT to the effort to organize health care for better quality and efficiency. "EHRs and health data exchange are already improving care for Oregonians," she said. "It's exciting to be in the vanguard of a national movement."



See more, page 3

Oregon's Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Up and Running

Hospitals and health care professionals eligible to participate in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program are now using the online application process that opened in Oregon Sept. 26.

The program provides federal funds to support the implementation and use of certified electronic health record systems in clinics and hospitals.

The [program's website](#) contains new guidance manuals and worksheets that provide step-by-step instructions on how to participate.

Medicare incentive deadline looms

Meanwhile, in the federal government's separate EHR incentive program under Medicare, the last day that eligible professionals can begin their 90-day reporting period in calendar year 2011 is Monday, Oct 3.

For eligible professionals, this means they must begin their consecutive 90-day reporting period by Monday, Oct. 3 in order to attest to meeting meaningful use and be eligible to receive a Medicare EHR incentive payment for calendar year 2011. This does not apply to the Medicaid incentive program.

OMA Sponsors Workshops on Quality, EHRs, Care Coordination

The Oregon Medical Association is sponsoring a three-session series of workshops on EHR adoption and use for small and medium-sized medical clinics. The three-part workshop series is designed specifically for small and medium-sized clinics operating both with and without an EHR. The courses are intended to complement the ongoing efforts to support EHR adoption and health information exchange in Oregon.

The next session is Oct. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., covering Quality Improvement. It can be attended live at the OMEF Conference Center in Portland or viewed by recorded webcast after Oct. 25

The first of the series was scheduled for Sept. 27 but did not take place and will be rescheduled. Its topic is the adoption, implementation and upgrading of EHR systems. The third workshop is on Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is about Coordinating Care in a Patient Centered Model. [Register online.](#)

Changing Conditions Prompt Delay on Consent Rules

Hearing scheduled for September 21 canceled

Due to several timing considerations related to HIE development, the evolving national landscape, emerging consent management technology and current Oregon health reform efforts around the development of Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), HITOC voted at its Sept. 8, 2011 meeting to approve the Office of Health IT staff recommendation to defer the adoption of Oregon Administrative Rules to implement the consent policy, in order to allow more time to gather information on the development of the state's CCOs and their implications for consent rules, and to engage stakeholders to better understand the environment in which the rules will be implemented.

HITOC agreed that the rules adoption process should be re-initiated when 1) the structure and criteria for CCOs are more clearly defined; 2) stakeholders and staff have a better understanding of how consent management will work most effectively and efficiently, both from a technological and procedural standpoint; and/or 3) query-based HIE becomes more robust in Oregon. At such time as the rules adoption process is re-initiated, all HITOC stakeholders will be invited to participate, as before, throughout the process. HITOC's Legal and Policy Workgroup will help staff define a process moving forward to engage stakeholders and collect input before the formal rules adoption process is re-initiated.

The rules involve informed consent requirements for health care providers participating in electronic health information exchange. They provide clear and consistent language for health care professionals to use as they communicate with their patients about the sharing of electronic health information.

The original notice, statement of need, and proposed rule documents are available and can be accessed on the [HITOC website.](#)

AIM Conference, continued

Representatives from Maine, Colorado, Vermont and Tennessee came to share their experiences with health information exchange, as did speakers from several health information organizations.

[Regina Holliday](#), an artist and patient advocate, told the story of her late husband Fred's battle with stage-four kidney cancer. Through the duration of Fred's lengthy and complex care, not one provider or facility shared Fred's health record or communicated with each other to explain Fred's treatment. Along with sharing her story, Regina painted murals during the AIM sessions to creatively illustrate the themes being discussed.

Oregon Direct Project Pilot demonstrated

Participants were able to see a public demonstration of Direct, a simple messaging technology that is hoped to draw many providers and other entities into health information exchange. Brian Ahier, president of Gorge Health Connect, presented the demonstration, which is also available on the organization's [website](#).

Gorge Health Connect (GHC) is a health information exchange that connects hospitals, federally-qualified health clinics, primary care providers (PCPs), specialists, public health and others. GHC is launching the Oregon Direct Project Pilot, one of the first in the nation, which is an important step in realizing the federal government's goal of a connected healthcare system that encompasses all providers.

The goal of GHC's pilot is to support existing referral patterns in the Columbia River Gorge area with secure transport of health information. The pilot focuses on routing referrals, summary care records and results between PCPs and specialists; transmitting PCP referrals and summary care records to hospitals; and sending discharge information from hospitals back to referring PCPs.

Visit www.aimoregon.com to find presentations and Regina and Fred's story.

Dozens Take Oregon e-Health Pledge for Technology that Helps People

Oregon is fortunate to have many entities and individuals committed to transforming our health care delivery systems, improving clinical outcomes and reducing health care costs. Many of them have already signed the new Oregon e-Health Pledge, unveiled in mid-September as a way to energize and publicly acknowledge the ongoing efforts to improve Oregonians' health through health IT.

With the Oregon e-Health Pledge, we will help achieve those goals by supporting the evolution of leading-edge health care IT solutions that:

- Enable health information exchange (HIE)
- Promote consumer engagement
- Connect consumers and clinicians in meaningful ways
- Foster access to health information
- Ensure the protection of privacy and security

See details of the [pledge online](#) at HITOC's website.

Mid Rogue Foundation Gets Federal Grant

HHS announces \$11.9 million to implement HIT in rural areas

Mid Rogue Foundation of Grants Pass, Oregon, has received \$272,845 from the federal government to support health IT.

Rural health networks across the nation are receiving more than \$11.9 million to support their adoption of health IT and certified EHRs. The funding will also help these rural health networks' participating eligible providers qualify for Medicare and Medicaid [EHR incentive payments](#), administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Each of 40 grantee organizations will receive about \$300,000 to purchase equipment, install broadband networks and provide training for staff. The pilot program was developed as a result of the President's [Rural Health Initiative](#), which identifies HIT as a priority area, and the Secretary's [Rural HIT Taskforce](#).



Articles of Recent Interest

- [New Rule: Individuals Can Get Test Results from Labs](#) (HDM Daily)
- [Medicaid EHR incentive programs go live in 4 more states](#) (Modern Healthcare)
- [AHRQ Releases Guide on IT-Related Errors; Starts Program to Track Issues](#) (iHealthBeat)

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: www.oregon.gov/OHA/OHPR/HITOC

ONC Launches New Website

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) announced the launch of its new website, HealthIT.gov. This website is designed to become the leading national resource on health information technology (health IT) for both consumers and health care professionals.

In making the announcement, ONC emphasized the impact of health IT on consumers:

Health is personal. It's personal for the parent who has a child with asthma. It's personal for the patient with a new cancer diagnosis. And it's personal for the doctor who is responsible for caring for them.

At its core, HealthIT.gov is about patients, and it's about helping them get the information they need, connecting them to resources that empower them to make changes, and ultimately, improving the nation's health—one person at a time.