

Health Information Technology Oversight Council Health IT Policy & Program Updates

February 2024



Issue highlights:

- [HITOC Strategic Plan: Draft Available](#)
- [HITOC Strategic Plan Community Engagement](#)
- [Member Recruitment](#)
- [Federal updates](#)

HITOC Updates

Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028, Contact: Hope.Peskin-Shepherd@oha.oregon.gov

HITOC develops Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT to provide high-level priorities, guidance, and direction for health IT over the next five years. The Strategic Plan has been developed over a multi-year process involving HITOC meetings, extensive community engagement, two Workgroups, and staff support from OHA. See the [Strategic Plan webpage](#) for more information.

Draft Available

HITOC's Draft Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028 is available on the [HITOC website](#) and will be the focus of the February 1 HITOC meeting. The Strategic Plan is comprised of HITOC's Vision, Goals, Principles, Strategies, and Activities for health IT efforts for the benefit of statewide progress. As the author of the Strategic Plan, HITOC sets expectations for partners in the health IT landscape. The Strategies focus on patients and consumers, electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchange (HIE), community information exchange (CIE), interoperability, and governance.

Community Engagement

At their December 2023 Retreat, HITOC reviewed the updated [Community Engagement and Input Report 2018-2023 to inform their Strategic Plan discussions](#). Throughout summer and fall 2023, OHA staff led listening sessions and interviews with consumers, providers, and community leaders; partners in behavioral health, carceral settings, and long-term care; and organizations that serve rural, culturally specific communities, and tribal health clinics to inform the updated report. The discussions focused on HITOC's draft Strategic Plan vision, goals, and strategies.

HITOC Meetings and Annual Priorities, Contact: Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov

February Meeting

HITOC's next meeting is [February 1](#) from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Members will review the draft of Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health Information Technology, 2024-2028. They will discuss the revisions made in response to their input from the December

What is HITOC?

The Oregon Legislature created the [Health Information Technology Oversight Council \(HITOC\)](#) to ensure that health system transformation efforts are supported by health information technology (IT). HITOC is a committee of the [Oregon Health Policy Board \(OHPB\)](#), which sets policy and provides oversight for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), including OHA's health system transformation efforts.

HITOC has six responsibilities:

1. Explore health IT policy
2. Plan Oregon's health IT strategy
3. Oversee OHA's health IT efforts
4. Assess Oregon's health IT landscape
5. Report on Oregon's health IT progress
6. Monitor federal health IT law and policy

HITOC brings partners across Oregon together for centralized policy work, strategic planning, oversight of health IT efforts, and landscape/policy assessment, so health IT efforts are more coordinated. HITOC also provides health IT expertise to OHPB and to Oregon lawmakers so they are informed about health IT in Oregon when they make policies and laws about health.

OHA's [Office of Health IT & Analytics Infrastructure \(OHITAI\)](#) staffs HITOC and the Oregon Health IT Program.

Strategic Plan Retreat, and then they will have the opportunity to approve the draft for Oregon Health Policy Board's review. Members will also receive information on membership recruitment.

Member recruitment

HITOC is accepting applications for new members! HITOC is looking for candidates who have strong lived and professional experience with health IT and how it impacts people in Oregon. Ideal candidates are committed to eliminating health inequities and ensuring health system transformation efforts are supported by health IT.

To ensure equitable representation, and based on known gaps in current representation, HITOC is seeking diverse representatives from all areas of the State, especially:

- **Behavioral health organizations**
- **Community-based organizations and social services**
- **Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO)** and health plans
- **Healthcare consumers**, including **people with disabilities** and consumer **advocates**
- People with experience working and living in **long-term care**
- **Students and youth** involved in health IT
- **Geographic representation**, particularly those who have experience with remote or sparsely populated areas such as Central or Eastern Oregon
- Representation from **racially and culturally diverse communities**

Technology vendors are not eligible to serve on HITOC but may be considered for workgroups or subcommittees. The Tribal seat is currently open. Recruitment for this seat is managed through OHA Tribal Affairs and is at the discretion of the Tribes.

To apply, complete both the [Membership Application Qualtrics survey](#) and the [supplemental membership application \(aplicación combinada en español\)](#). The application is now open and will close 2/14/2024. See HITOC's [Member Recruitment page](#) for full details.

Health Information Exchange (HIE) Workgroup, Contact: Luke.A.Glowasky@oha.oregon.gov

HITOC chartered the HIE Workgroup in April 2022 to provide recommendations to HITOC and OHA on strategies to accelerate, support, and improve HIE across the state. Recommendations should reflect perspectives from all interested parties and partners, specifically including people who serve communities that face health inequities. The HIE Workgroup met monthly from May 2022 to August 2023 and has concluded meeting. The HIE Workgroup recommendations inform HITOC's Health IT Strategic Plan for Oregon and other OHA efforts. See the goals and full scope in the [HIE Workgroup Charter](#). For more information on HIE, see the [HIE Overview](#) and the OHA [HIE Workgroup website](#).

The HIE Workgroup concluded in 2023. The Workgroup divided their work into five concept areas, outlined in detailed papers. Each paper and topic has been reviewed by HITOC. The final versions of the five concept papers are below:

1. ["Statewide Vision for HIE: Oregon's Approach to HIE and Addressing Health Equity"](#)
2. ["HIE to Support Health System Transformation: Promoting Healthcare Quality and Better Population Health Outcomes"](#)
3. ["Demonstrating Value with Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Use Cases of HIE"](#)
4. ["Connecting the Care Team: HIE Adoption and Closed-Loop Clinical Referrals"](#)
5. ["Consumers, Privacy & Security, and Data Quality"](#)

Meeting summaries, recordings and materials can be found on the HIE Workgroup website [here](#).

Oregon Health IT Program: Partnerships, Programs, and Initiatives

CCO Health IT Roadmaps and Support, Contact: Marta.M.Makarushka@oha.oregon.gov

Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are contractually required to maintain an OHA-approved Health IT Roadmap. CCOs are required to submit an annual Health IT Roadmap to OHA reporting the progress made from the previous year, as well as plans, activities, and milestones detailing how they will support contracted providers in future contract years. As of 2022, CCOs are also required to submit data files reporting on EHR and HIE adoption by contracted providers.

CCOs submitted “2023 Health IT Roadmaps” and “Health IT Data Reporting Files” to OHA in March 2023. CCOs reported the progress they made in 2022 to support EHR and HIE adoption and use of health IT to support SDOH needs, including social needs screening and referrals. They also shared their planned strategies to further these efforts in 2023-24. OHA reviewed CCO submissions and then notified CCOs on June 16 whether Roadmaps were approved or if revisions were needed. By end of October, all CCOs had an approved Roadmaps.

OHA has developed 2023 Roadmap summaries that will inform HITOC and OHA decisions. HITAG discussed the [Health IT to Support SDOH Needs Summary](#) at the July 27 meeting and the [Supporting EHR Adoption Summary](#) at the October 26 meeting. The redacted 2023 HIT Roadmaps and reporting templates/guidance are posted on OHA’s [CCO Health IT Advisory Group \(HITAG\) website](#). HITAG’s next quarterly meeting is January 25, from 1 to 4 p.m., where HITAG will discuss the summary of CCO efforts Supporting HIE for Care Coordination and Hospital Event Notifications and other topics.

Health IT Landscape and Environmental Scan, Contact: Marta.M.Makarushka@oha.oregon.gov

OHA’s Health IT team engages in ongoing environmental scan activities to inform health IT efforts and ensure strategies and programs address evolving needs. OHA’s Health IT team continues compiling data across the agency and other sources to serve various purposes, such as informing HITOC’s progress monitoring, program oversight, reporting priorities and strategic planning. Refer to [the 2022 HITOC Report on Oregon’s Health IT Landscape](#) for more information.

HIT Commons, Contact: Luke.A.Glowasky@oha.oregon.gov

The HIT Commons is a public/private collaboration to coordinate investments in health IT, leverage funding opportunities, and advance HIE across the state. HIT Commons is co-sponsored by the Oregon Health Leadership Council (OHLIC) and OHA, and is jointly funded by OHA, hospitals, health plans and CCOs. For more information, see the [HIT Commons website](#).

EDIE and the Collective Platform (formerly known as PreManage)

The [Emergency Department Information Exchange \(EDIE\)](#) allows emergency departments (EDs) in real-time to identify patients with complex care needs who frequently use the emergency room for their care. [The Collective Platform](#) (fka PreManage) is a companion software tool to EDIE. The Collective Platform brings the same real-time hospital event notifications (ED and Inpatient Admit, Discharge, and Transfer [ADT] data) to those outside of the hospital system, such as health plans, CCOs, providers, and care coordinators. OHA supports a Collective Platform subscription that includes use by CCOs, Oregon Department of Human Services programs, Tribal clinics, and other Medicaid care coordinators. The technology vendor for EDIE and the Collective Platform is PointClickCare.

HIT Commons and PointClickCare hosted an educational webinar on October 12, 2023 detailing the launch of Collaborative “Insights” functionality in the Collective Platform. “Insights” show clinical and care coordination information used across a patient’s care providers. These Insights show brief synopses on how to provide the best care for the patient, and they facilitate collaboration between different members of a patient’s care team. A recording and transcript from the webinar are available [here](#).

HIT Commons and OHA hosted their annual CCO/dental care organization (DCO) Learning Collaborative on December 8, 2023. The Collaborative featured discussions on statewide health IT solutions, tools and strategies, including a presentation from the Oregon Department of Human Services on their various uses of the Collective Platform. The slides and recording from the Collaborative are available [here](#).

The [HIT Commons User Advisory Group \(UAG\)](#) met December 8, 2023. Topics of discussion included: updates on priority use cases for HIT Commons, including enabling overdose notifications to prescribers using the Collective Platform and PDMP prescriber data and school-based health center use of the Collective Platform; review of quarterly EDIE success metrics in 2023; and reviewing draft 2024 HIT Commons priorities and 2024-2026 EDIE success metrics. The draft 2024 HIT Commons priorities will be considered by the HIT Commons Governance Board in January 2024. Materials from the December 8, 2023 UAG meeting, including the current list of priority EDIE/Collective use cases, are available [here](#). The next meeting is March 15, 2024.

Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Integration Initiative

Oregon's PDMP Integration initiative connects EDIE, Reliance eHealth Collaborative HIE, EHRs, and pharmacy management systems to Oregon's PDMP. HIT Commons is overseeing the [PDMP Integration initiative](#) with guidance from its HIT Commons Users Advisory Group and in coordination with OHA's Public Health PDMP program. For more information see the [HIT Commons website](#).

Use of the popular PDMP Integration initiative continues to grow with 37 new organizations going live in Q3 of 2023. 1,190 facilities and 8,652 Oregon prescribers accessed PDMP data through the PDMP Integration in the last 18 months according to data from Bamboo health (PDMP technology vendor). This represents a considerable decrease from previous reporting. HIT Commons and OHA Public Health representatives continue to work with Bamboo Health to identify the cause of the significant decrease in both facilities and prescriber reported numbers. OHA will update HITOC via future Policy & Program Update reports. Additional information, including a list of participating organizations, can be found in the [Q3 2023 PDMP Integration Implementation Report](#).

Federal and State Health IT Policy Updates

Federal Law and Policy, Contact: Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov

See past [Health IT Policy and Program Updates](#) for news on federal health IT policy and updates to standards and guidance, including the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) efforts.

Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Implementation

On December 12, 2023, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra, HHS Deputy Secretary Andrea Palm, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Micky Tripathi, and other federal leaders celebrated TEFCA exchange becoming operational at a Common Agreement signing event at HHS headquarters.

At the event, the following five organizations that completed the rigorous TEFCA onboarding process were officially designated as Qualified Health Information Networks, or QHINs:

- eHealth Exchange
- Epic Nexus
- Health Gorilla
- KONZA
- MedAllies

Within 48 hours of launch, more than 1200 organizations were live on the exchanges, and users had initiated approximately 1000 transactions, including individuals accessing their own health information. Visit [The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology \(ONC\) website](#) to learn more.

Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Certification Program Updates, Algorithm Transparency, and Information Sharing (HTI-1) Final Rule

In this final rule, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) implements provisions of the [21st Century Cures Act](#), makes updates to the ONC Health IT Certification Program including new and updated standards, certification criteria, and implementation specifications in 45 CFR Part 170, establishes a new baseline version of the United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI), and provides enhancements to support information sharing through updates to the information blocking regulations. The updates support improved care delivery, interoperability, and health equity initiatives.

Rule Highlights

- Implements the Cures Act’s “EHR Reporting Program” to require transparent reporting on different types of certified health IT metrics through the new “Insights” Condition and Maintenance of Certification.
- Provides updates to the information blocking regulations in response to feedback from affected parties.
- Establishes first of its kind transparency requirements for the artificial intelligence (AI) and other predictive algorithms that are part of certified health IT.
- Adopts USCDI Version 3 to replace USCDI Version 1 as the baseline USCDI standard as of January 1, 2026.
- Updates the Certification Program’s standards, criteria, and requirements.

[Several fact sheets](#) are available for more information on specific topics within the final rule.

Comment opportunity: National Institutes of Health (NIH) Strategic Plan for Data Science 2023-2028

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking input on topics under consideration for the updated NIH Strategic Plan for Data Science, 2023-2028 from interested parties, including members of the scientific community, academic institutions, the private sector, health professionals, professional societies, advocacy groups, and patient communities, as well as other interested members of the public.

The updated Strategic Plan for Data Science sets a bold vision for the future, one in which data generated in the course of care of individuals and data generated from biomedical and basic research become powerful inputs that enhance our understanding of fundamental biology and enable the development of new clinical treatments and diagnostic technologies. Responses can be submitted on the [National Institutes of Health website](#). Comments must be received no later than March 15, 2024.

Oregon Law and Policy, Contact: Luke.A.Glowasky@oha.oregon.gov

Oregon 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver, Contact: 1115Waiver.Renewal@dhs.oha.state.or.us

On September 28, 2022, Oregon received federal approval to pilot first-in-the-nation changes to the state’s Medicaid program over the next five years. Under the agreement, Oregon will receive \$1.1 billion in new federal funds to address inadequate food, housing and other root-cause issues that lead to poor health for people and families struggling to make ends meet. The agreement between Oregon and the federal agency Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) renews Oregon’s current section [1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver](#) for the next five years (covering 2022 – 2027) and provides federal approval and funding to implement the new changes.

Health IT plays a critical role in supporting [approved changes in the waiver](#) related to stabilizing transitions for Oregon Health Plan members, including supporting members transitioning from corrections, psychiatric, and foster care settings. Health IT tools can also play an important role in supporting information sharing between health care and social services to capture health related social needs, referrals, and services.

OHA posts materials and hosts a monthly webinar series on the Waiver that will return in February 2024. Visit the [Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver webpage for more information](#).

Oregon 2024 Legislative Session

Oregon's 2024 Legislative session will begin on February 5, 2024 and end by March 10, 2024. OHA staff will track and keep HITOC updated on any bills with health IT and/or HITOC impacts during session. The [Oregon Legislative Information System \(OLIS\)](#) is an online tool where information on all bills, hearings, testimony, and work sessions can be accessed. OLIS also allows for e-subscribing to individual bills to receive updates via email. Information on how testify at public hearings (in person or remotely) can be found [here](#) and to provide written testimony [here](#).

Stay Connected

You can find information about HITOC at our [website](#). Meetings are open to the public. Public comments are accepted at the end of each meeting or in writing to the HITOC Chair and Vice-Chair in care of OHA (HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov).

Refer to past [Health IT Policy and Program Updates](#) to review previous health IT resources, historical state and federal updates, and more.

Program Contact

Health Information Technology Oversight Council: HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov

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