

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is transforming the health care system in Oregon by improving the lifelong health of Oregonians, increasing the quality, reliability, and availability of care for all Oregonians, and lowering or containing the cost of care so it's affordable to everyone.

Health information technology (HIT) is key to health transformation efforts and affects almost everyone. There are hundreds of health care organizations across Oregon that need to make decisions about HIT. Their decisions affect thousands of health care providers and other health care workers, and millions of Oregonians.

To ensure that health system transformation efforts are supported by HIT, the Oregon legislature created the Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC). HITOC is a committee of the Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) which sets policy and provides oversight for OHA, including OHA's health system transformation efforts.

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

HITOC members are appointed by OHPB. HITOC members must have expertise in health care delivery, health information technology, health informatics, or health care quality improvement. They must also be representative of the Oregonians and organizations that are affected by OHA's HIT efforts.

What is Health Information Technology (HIT)?

"HIT" is technology (computer hardware or software) that stores, retrieves, shares, or uses health information.

"Health information" includes patient records of doctors' visits, hospital admissions, prescriptions, lab results, etc.

Examples of HIT include:

- Tools that store and display the health information a health care provider has about a patient, for example, electronic health records and patient portals.
- Tools that share health information from one health care organization to another, for example, from a primary care provider to a specialist.
- Tools that help health care organizations analyze and improve the health care they provide.
- Wearables and apps that patients use as part of managing their health.

Health information is private and protected by law. HIT must protect patient privacy and ensure security.

Health care providers, private health plans (health insurance companies), Medicaid Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), health systems, hospitals, clinics, and other health-related organizations use HIT to take care of patients and manage their businesses.

Patients, families, and caregivers use HIT to view their health information, communicate with their health care providers, and manage health conditions.

HITOC's Responsibilities (ORS 413.308)

Explore HIT Policy	Explore high-priority HIT policy topics related to Oregon's goals of health system transformation and promoting health equity; when appropriate, convene workgroups to aid exploration.
Plan Oregon's HIT Strategy	Make recommendations to OHPB about HIT policy, including HIT strategic planning, priority setting, policy direction, legislative opportunities, developing statewide HIT programs and partnerships, and other opportunities to improve the effectiveness of HIT efforts in Oregon.
Oversee OHA's HIT Efforts	Oversee and monitor OHA's HIT efforts, including the Oregon HIT Program, and promote transparency about those efforts. The Oregon HIT Program has a variety of initiatives, including bringing federal funding to Oregon to support health care providers in purchasing and using HIT and HIE tools.
Assess Oregon's HIT Landscape	Assess the state of HIT in Oregon; identify gaps, barriers, areas where more information is needed, and other issues with HIT in Oregon.
Report on Oregon's HIT Progress	Develop reports to inform OHPB and other stakeholders about use of HIT in Oregon, including electronic health record (EHR) adoption and use, participation in HIT efforts, and other topics important to achieving Oregon's goals for HIT-optimized health care.
Monitor Federal HIT Law and Policy	Monitor federal HIT laws and policies that impact Oregon; make recommendations to OHPB, the Oregon Legislature, or take other action when appropriate.

Stay Connected

You can find information about HITOC at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-HITOC/Pages/index.aspx>. Meetings are open to the public and public comments are accepted at the end of each meeting or in writing to the HITOC Chair and Vice-Chair in care of OHA (ohit.info@state.or.us).

Program Contact

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Get involved with Oregon Health IT

Office of Health Information Technology: HealthIT.Oregon.gov

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