

Oregonians receive better-informed, coordinated care when their health information is available wherever they receive care. Oregon health care providers need relevant information about their patients to deliver care and to operate their organizations. To make that possible, electronic health information sharing, or health information exchange, is a critical part of the coordinated care model. It allows providers to share health information securely and efficiently, so that a patient's providers can see their health information and provide coordinated, whole-person care.

While there are many ways to share health information electronically, there are also gaps that create burdens for patients, providers, Medicaid Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), and health insurance companies. Oregon's **Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC)**, which is responsible for creating Oregon's health information technology (HIT) strategy, has developed a path to statewide health information exchange. You can learn more about HITOC and see its full strategic plan here: <https://bit.ly/2CJwZlr>

HITOC's statewide health information exchange (HIE) goals

1. Oregonians have their core health information available wherever they receive care statewide.
2. Health information sharing is meaningful to providers, considers usability and workflow, and prioritizes high-value use cases. (See p. 2 for example use cases.)
3. Health information sharing supports the coordinated care model, patient engagement, and value-based payment.

How HITOC will achieve its statewide HIE goals

1. Support and connect robust networks of health information exchange entities and tools.
2. Provide baseline services to those facing barriers.
3. Offer statewide enabling infrastructure to leverage existing investments and opportunities.
4. Provide access to high-value data sources.
5. Coordinate stakeholders to establish a shared governance model.

See page 3 for more information about programs and partnerships supporting these goals.

Oregon's Path to Statewide Health Information Exchange

What It Is

Oregon providers, hospitals, health systems, Medicaid Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), health insurance companies, and other users connect to a variety of health information exchange tools and networks. Each organization chooses the tools that work best for them and their community.

When possible, health information exchange tools and networks connect or coordinate so information moves seamlessly between the tools and networks.

HITOC sets Oregon's strategic path to support statewide exchange, and monitors progress. This path includes a few key statewide resources to help users share information.

What It Is Not

After working with stakeholders and partners across Oregon, HITOC decided not to develop or designate a single, statewide health information exchange to serve all Oregon's needs. This approach ensures organizations can make the business decisions that are right for them, supports communities in developing solutions that meet their specific needs, leverages resources already in place, and promotes innovation.

Principles HITOC uses when defining strategies and working toward its statewide HIE goals

Leverage current resources; anticipate changes. Consider investments and resources already in place when making decisions. Promote national standards, and monitor and adapt to changing federal, state, and local HIT environments

Protect Oregonians' health information. Ensure sharing is private, secure, and complies with HIPAA and other protections.

Democratize the data. Patients have the right to have their key health data available to all their providers to support continuity of care, safety, and quality.

Consider provider needs. Focus on high-value use cases and incorporate solutions into workflows.

Be inclusive. Successful exchange requires everyone's participation. Pay attention to gaps in health information sharing, especially resource limitations, geographical differences, and health equity issues.

Address the need for governance. Competition makes coordination and collaboration difficult. A neutral, trusted entity is needed to align efforts and ensure that data is available for appropriate use.

Types of Health Information Exchange Efforts

Health information exchange efforts active in Oregon include:

- Shared EHR and EHR-based tools like CareEverywhere.
- Regional health information exchanges, which store health information so that all a patient's providers can see their relevant health information.
- Direct secure messaging, a highly secure, HIPAA-compliant message standard.
- National sharing networks like Carequality, Commonwell, and eHealthExchange.
- Hospital event notifications like Oregon's Emergency Department Information Exchange

Most of these tools and networks can share only certain types of health information, so many organizations share information in multiple ways.

Health Information Exchange Gaps in Oregon

There are many electronic health information exchange efforts active in Oregon. However, gaps remain. For example, a rural or frontier community may have one major health system that uses a single, shared EHR, meeting almost all the needs within the community. But, when a patient needs to go to a distant clinic to get specialist care, the distant clinic's EHR may be unable to communicate with the health system's EHR. In cases like these, many providers still rely on faxing to share health information. This is especially common among behavioral health and smaller, independent health care providers.

Priority Use Cases and Participants for Statewide Health Information Exchange

Reasons for sharing ("use cases")

Exchanging care summaries, closed-loop referrals, complex care coordination, alert notifications, data for value-based payment models.

Main participants who share information

Hospitals, Medicaid Coordinated Care Organizations, health plans (health insurance companies), and physical, behavioral, oral, long-term services and supports, EMS, skilled nursing facilities, and social services providers.

Bodies of Work Supporting HITOC's Statewide HIE Goals

| Goal | Efforts supporting that goal |
|--|--|
| <p>Support and connect robust networks of health information exchange entities and tools.</p> | <p>HIE Onboarding Program</p> <p>The Health Information Exchange (HIE) Onboarding Program is designed to support care coordination by advancing the exchange of information across Oregon's Medicaid provider network. OHA has contracted with Reliance eHealth Collaborative for this Program. Priority Medicaid providers include behavioral health, oral health, critical physical health and others. The Program leverages 90 percent federal funding to support the initial costs of connecting (onboarding) priority Medicaid providers to community-based HIEs. Later phases of the Program may include the onboarding of long-term services and supports, social services, as well as other providers. Participation in the Program is voluntary, and CCOs play a role in bringing this program to providers in their regions.</p> <p>Network of Networks – in development</p> <p>HITOC is developing a set of strategies to connect and coordinate the various exchange efforts in Oregon through an initiative called the Network of Networks. This model envisions collaborative work around establishing common rules of the road, developing requisite technical and legal frameworks, and developing and/or adopting enabling infrastructure to support cross-network exchange. This work began in 2018 with an initial technical workgroup and will continue in 2019.</p> |
| <p>Provide baseline services to those facing barriers.</p> | <p>Emergency Department Information Exchange (EDIE)</p> <p>EDIE provides real-time notifications that allow Emergency Departments (ED) physicians to identify patients with complex care needs who frequently use the emergency room. EDIE brings to the attention of the attending ED physician, critical information related to alerts and care recommendations from the patients' own health care team for better informed care. All hospitals in Oregon have adopted EDIE and ED physicians report finding significant value in receiving these notifications.</p> <p>PreManage</p> <p>PreManage expands the notifications of ED utilization and inpatient admissions to other users such as health plans, Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), and physical, behavioral and dental clinics. The result is improved communication and information sharing between hospitals, providers and health plans to provide higher quality care to patients, identify patients at risk for hospital readmission, reduce burdensome duplication of tests, and ultimately reduce reliance on costly ED services through better cross organizational coordination of care. OHA supports the costs of PreManage for all CCOs and other key Medicaid partners.</p> |
| <p>Offer statewide enabling infrastructure to leverage existing investments and opportunities.</p> | <p>Oregon Provider Directory – in development</p> <p>The Oregon Provider Directory will serve as Oregon's directory of accurate, trusted provider data. It will support care coordination, HIE, administrative efficiencies, and serve as a resource for health analytics. Authoritative data sources that feed the Provider Directory will be matched and aggregated and data stewards will oversee management of the data to ensure the Provider Directory maintains initial and long-term quality information. The Provider Directory Advisory Committee provides stakeholder input and oversight to OHA's development of this program.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Provide access to high-value data sources.</p> | <p>Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Integration initiative</p> <p>Oregon’s PDMP Integration initiative connects EDIE, HIEs, EHRs, and pharmacy management systems (PMS) to Oregon’s PDMP, which includes prescription fill information on controlled substances, and is administered by OHA’s Public Health Division. HIT Commons is overseeing the PDMP Integration work with guidance from the Oregon PDMP Integration Steering Committee and in coordination with OHA’s Public Health PDMP program.</p> |
| <p>Coordinate stakeholders to establish a shared governance model</p> | <p>HIT Commons</p> <p>This public/private partnership is designed to accelerate and advance health information technology adoption and use across the state, leverage public and private investments, and expand access to high value data sources (see EDIE and PDMP Integration initiatives). HIT Commons is co-sponsored by the Oregon Health Leadership Council (OHLC) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and is jointly funded by OHA, hospitals, and health plans.</p> |
| <p>Other supporting work that supports HIE goals</p> | <p>HITOC and OHA supporting work</p> <p>Guidance, technical assistance, leveraging policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 CFR Part 2 Toolkit on rules for sharing substance use treatment data - <i>in development</i> <p>Convening, aligning stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HITOC’s HIT/HIE Community and Organizational Panel • CCO HIT Advisory Group • HITOC’s Behavioral Health HIT Workgroup <p>Providing information about the HIE landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health HIT Scan <p>Monitoring through data to show whether progress is being made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HITOC dashboard - <i>in development</i> <p>Exploring emerging areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HITOC exploring role of technology for social determinants of health and health equity |

Program Contact

Susan Otter, *Health Information Technology Oversight Council*
HITOC.info@dhsosha.state.or.us

Visit our website

HealthIT.oregon.gov

Updated February 2019