

Health Information Technology Oversight Council

Health IT Policy & Program Updates

October 2024



Issue highlights:

- [HITOC October Meeting](#)
- [CIE to Support Oregon's 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver](#)
- [Federal Updates](#)

HITOC Updates

Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028, Contact: Laurel.Moffat@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.

Health IT Strategic Plan Finalized

The Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028 was finalized in May 2024. It sets expectations for partners in the health IT landscape and outlines ways that health IT can support health equity. The strategies focus on patients and consumers, electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchange (HIE), community information exchange (CIE), interoperability, and governance.

The [Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028](#) is available on the [HITOC website](#).

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

October Meeting

HITOC's next meeting is [October 10](#) from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and will be virtual. HITOC will focus on electronic health records (EHRs). Members will hear updates on EHR adoption and use across Oregon and learn more about coordinated care organization (CCO) health IT strategies for supporting EHR adoption.

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

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.

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 2024 Health IT Roadmaps and Health IT Data Reporting Files to OHA in March 2024. CCOs reported the progress they made in 2023 to support EHR and HIE adoption, access, and optimization, 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 2024-26. OHA reviewed CCO submissions and notified all CCOs June 17, 2024, that Roadmaps were approved; no CCO was required to revise and resubmit. CCOs met with OHA in July and August to discuss questions and provide any needed clarification about their efforts.

OHA is developing summaries of each 2024 Roadmap section that will inform HITOC and OHA efforts. HITAG discussed the 2024 [Health IT to Support Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Needs Summary](#) at the July 25 meeting. Meeting recordings, redacted 2023 Health IT Roadmaps, and reporting templates/guidance are posted on OHA's [CCO Health IT Advisory Group \(HITAG\) website](#). HITAG's next quarterly meeting is October 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. during which OHA will present the 2024 CCO Supporting EHR Adoption Summary and review minor revisions of the 2025 Health IT Roadmap Guidance and Template.

Community Information Exchange (CIE), Contact: Hope.Peskin-Shepherd@oha.oregon.gov

OHA's CIE team monitors the CIE landscape, provides educational information, analyzes policies, and develops and implements strategies that support CIE efforts in Oregon. OHA's CIE work is also guided by HITOC's Strategic Plan and the CIE Workgroup's [House Bill 4150 \(2022\) Legislative Report](#).

CIE to Support Oregon's 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver

The 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver, approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), allows Oregon to pilot first-in-the-nation Medicaid changes. Oregon will receive \$1.1 billion in federal funds to create a more equitable, culturally and linguistically responsive health care system, support continuous health coverage and improve health outcomes. Visit the [1115 Medicaid Waiver webpage](#) for general information.

Oregon's 2022-2027 [1115 Medicaid waiver](#) requires using closed loop referrals to support the delivery of [health-related social needs \(HRSN\)](#) services, including housing, nutrition and climate-related supports, and outreach and engagement. CIE supports this waiver requirement and helps efficiently connect people with the services and resources they need, which helps eliminate health inequities.

OHA plans to procure CIE to support Oregon's Medicaid Open Card program to meet the closed loop referral requirements under the waiver and may procure more than one vendor in this process. Use of CIE for closed loop referrals will be phased in during the 1115 waiver implementation. OHA has no plans to disrupt the current CIE environment or Medicaid coordinated care organizations' (CCOs) CIE contracts.

To learn more about CIE and the waiver, including plans for a phased-in approach to CIE use for HRSN referrals and supports for HRSN Service Providers, see the [CIE to Support Oregon's 1115 Medicaid Waiver Informational Brief](#).

OHA is also working with Oregon Health and Science University to interview CCOs on technical assistance gaps and appropriate roles for OHA, and plans to coordinate with CCOs to support community-based organizations with CIE adoption.

CIE Governance Exploration

OHA is working with Portland State University's Oregon Consensus Program, a neutral consultant, to assess community and partner readiness for a CIE governance process. These neutral consultants interviewed partners and held several focus groups in summer of 2024.

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

HIT Commons is a public-private collaborative in Oregon that makes strategic community investments in health IT as a public good, by advancing statewide adoption of tools that promote health and social health-related data interoperability. 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](#).

PointClickCare Platform (formerly known as EDIE and Collective Medical)

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](#) 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. EDIE and the Collective Platform are now referred to as the PointClickCare (PCC) platform. OHA supports a PCC platform subscription that includes use by CCOs, Oregon Department of Human Services programs, Tribal clinics, and other Medicaid care coordinators.

In July 2024, the HIT Commons Governance Board approved a [Strategic Statement and Primary Functions](#) to guide the work of the HIT Commons over the next two or more years. Opportunities to align with priorities and strategies in [HITOC's Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028](#), were promoted through OHA presentations to the Governance Board, and collaboration between OHA and HIT Commons staff.

After much anticipation, Oregon State Hospital (OSH) began sharing real-time hospital event (ADT) data with the PCC platform on September 16, 2024. Users will utilize this information to better coordinate care for their patients and members experiencing major life transitions in or out of OSH's care via real-time interventions and incorporation of the data into reports used for population health. The Information Sheet and recorded webinar [available here](#) contain more details about the initiative. For more information about Oregon's public psychiatric hospital, see [OSH's website](#).

On November 6, 2024, 12:00-1:00PM, HIT Commons will offer an educational webinar on the EpicCare Link tool. EpicCare Link is a web-based portal that allows providers, such as referring physicians, care managers, and others, read-only access to a patient's medical record at a participating hospital/health system's Epic electronic health record. Through a single sign-on feature, providers can access most Oregon hospital records electronically to avoid costly and timely manual medical records requests. The webinar is open to everyone but is specifically focused on benefits and opportunities for behavioral health providers and care coordinators. Register for the webinar [here](#).

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

Oregon's PDMP Integration initiative connects PCC, Reliance eHealth Collaborative, 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. Bamboo Health is the technology vendor for the PDMP system. For more information see the [HIT Commons website](#).

Use of the popular PDMP Integration initiative continues to grow. 25 new organizations launched integrations in Q2 of 2024, with 19,595 prescribers and 1,994 facilities in Oregon accessing the PDMP via PDMP Integration during that period. Additional information, including a list of participating organizations, can be found on the HIT Commons PDMP Integration website [here](#).

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.

News

ONC Is Now ASTP

On July 25, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a reorganization to streamline and bolster technology, cybersecurity, data, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy and policy functions which had historically been distributed across HHS.

As part of the reorganization, ONC has been renamed the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and has assumed oversight over technology, data, and AI policy and strategy for the department, including the HHS-wide roles of Chief Technology Officer, Chief Data Officer, and Chief AI Officer. More information is available in this [blog post](#).

Comment Opportunities

Proposed Rule: HHS Alignment of Health IT Investments

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources (ASFR) seeks public comments on its recent proposed rule: Acquisition of Information Technology; Standards for Health Information Technology. ASTP and ASFR are actively working to achieve department-wide alignment in health IT investments. The proposed rule is an important step in putting the HHS Health IT Alignment Policy into action. [Comment](#) on the proposed rule by October 8, 2024.

More information is available in this [blog post](#).

Public Feedback: USCDI+ Quality V1 Data Element List

ASTP recently released the Draft USCDI+ Quality V1 data element list for public comment on the [USCDI+ platform](#). This first version of USCDI+ Quality continues to build upon electronic data reporting needs for quality measures. ASTP is seeking comment on the larger dataset, "Quality Overarching" as well as a subset dataset, "Draft USCDI+ Quality V1." [Comments](#) are due October 15, 2024.

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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