

July 2022 eNews

Welcome to the Office of Health Information Technology (IT) eNewsletter! Here you will find updates on health IT in Oregon and at the federal level. For a deeper dive into health IT in Oregon check out the [Policy and Program Updates](#). If there are specific items you would like to see in this newsletter, please send ideas to HITOC.INFO@dhsosha.state.or.us.

State Highlights

Community Information Exchange (CIE) Workgroup Preliminary Legislative Recommendations

The CIE Workgroup has reached a major milestone! They have finalized preliminary recommendations for the legislature to support statewide CIE, which you can find here:

- [Support for Community-based Organizations \(CBOs\) to Participate in CIE](#)
- [Support for Additional Partners to Participate in CIE](#)
- [OHA and Oregon Department of Human Services Roles in CIE](#)
- [Statewide CIE Data Program](#)

The Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) will review and act on these recommendation at their [August 4th meeting](#). Public comment is always welcome (see the end of the newsletter for details on how to submit public comment.) Stay tuned for HITOC's [House Bill 4150](#) draft legislative report which will include HITOC's comments on the CIE Workgroup recommendations. Recommendations may lead to legislative action in the 2023 session.

The CIE Workgroup meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month throughout 2022; the next meeting is August 16, 2022 and will focus on the CIE community engagement survey and interviews conducted with CBOs. [Meetings](#) are open to the public and available virtually. Please see the [CIE Workgroup website](#) for details and below for upcoming events.

Rescheduled: September Education Session on the 2022 HITOC Data Report

On [September 22](#) HITOC will hold an education session on the [2022 Health IT Report to HITOC](#). This session will feature updated data on electronic health record (EHR) and health information exchange (HIE) adoption and use across Oregon, gaps and challenges, and potential implications for HITOC's strategic planning work. This one-hour webinar will provide a high-level orientation to the health IT tools in use in Oregon and allow opportunity for members to ask in depth questions about the report.

OHA has held a series of education sessions for HITOC and members of the public to orient to key topics that will come up in the HITOC strategic plan work. These sessions are informational only. They are optional for HITOC members, and no official HITOC action (deliberation or decisions) will be made. The four previous education sessions on HIE Basics, Oregon's HIE Programs, Oregon's HIT Programs, and Federal Interoperability Final Rules can be viewed [here](#).

HITOC

Highlights from June Meeting

At HITOC's [June 9](#) meeting, members heard a high level overview of the [2022 Health IT Report to HITOC](#), with information provided on EHR and HIE adoption across provider types. Information was also presented on the plan for the draft legislative report for House Bill 4150, which requires HITOC establish group(s) to explore options to accelerate, support and improve CIE. Both the HIE and CIE Workgroups provided updates, with the CIE Workgroup presenting on the first legislative concept: Support for CBOs to participate in CIE.

Lastly members participated in sharing their insight on EHRs using a Jamboard on the following subject areas:

- Critical Uses: What do we rely on EHRs for?
- Adoption and Usability Gaps: Who's been left behind?
- Adoption and Usability: Strategies and policies

August Meeting

HITOC's [next meeting is August 4](#) from 12:30-3:30 and will focus on reviewing the four CIE concepts that will be part of HB 4150s Draft Report. Members will also hear updates from Nancy Goff and Dana Hiniker with Collective Health Strategies on CBO CIE interviews and survey results. The HIE Workgroup will also present on meeting updates and draft policy considerations.

Federal Policy Updates

HHS Issues Updated Privacy Guidance

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued [new guidance](#) to help protect patients seeking reproductive health care, as well as their providers.

In general, the guidance does two things:

- 1) addresses how federal law and regulations protect individuals' private medical information (known as protected health information or PHI) relating to abortion and other sexual and reproductive health care – making it clear that providers are not required to disclose private medical information to third parties; and
- 2) addresses the extent to which private medical information is protected on personal cell phones and tablets and provides tips for protecting individuals' privacy when using period trackers and other health information apps.

This guidance also addresses the circumstances under which the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule permits disclosure of PHI without an individual's authorization. It explains that disclosures for purposes not related to health care, such as disclosures to law enforcement officials, are permitted only in narrow circumstances tailored to protect the individual's privacy and support their access to health care, including abortion care. For specifics, refer to the HHS webpage [here](#).

If you believe that a HIPAA-covered entity or its business associate violated your (or someone else's) health information privacy rights or committed another violation of the Privacy, Security, or Breach Notification Rules, you may file a complaint at <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/index.html>.

You can find more information on the new guidance [here](#).

USCDI Version 3 Released

ONC published the third version of the [United States Core Data for Interoperability \(USCDI v3\)](#), a list of information that all EHR systems must be able to share with each other. The update includes 20 new data elements and two new data classes to advance health IT for improved care, reduced inequities, and stronger public health reporting.

The two new data classes are:

- 1) Health Insurance Information, which allows for the capture and sharing of healthcare insurance coverage information in a standardized way. This data class includes seven new elements: Coverage Status, Relationship to Subscriber, Member Identifier, Subscriber Identifier, Payer Identifier, Group Identifier, and Coverage Type.
- 2) Health Status, which includes assessments of health-related matters performed during care that could identify a need or problem. The new data elements in this data class are Disability Status, Mental/Cognitive Status, Functional Status, and Pregnancy Status.

Additional data elements include but are not limited to:

- Laboratory data: Specimen Type and Result Status,
- Medication data: Dose and Fill Status,
- Demographic data: Related Person's Name, Related Person's Relationship, Date of Death, Occupation, Occupation Industry, and Tribal Affiliation.

The USCDI has expanded from 52 data elements in 16 data classes in v1 to 94 data elements in 19 data classes in v3.

Upcoming Events: OHA Health IT Meetings/Events

- August 4, 12:30-3:30: [HITOC](#)
 - Meeting topics will include updates from both HIE and CIE Workgroups, preliminary legislative concepts, and a discussion of additional legislative considerations. HITOC meetings are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome either at the meeting or in writing at any time (send to: HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us). For more information, please see the [website](#).
- August 16, 12:30-3:00: [CIE Workgroup monthly meeting](#)
 - At this meeting the CIE Workgroup will focus on the CIE community engagement survey and interviews conducted with CBOs.
- August 26, 1:30-4:30: [HIE Workgroup monthly meeting](#)
 - At this meeting the HIE Workgroup will continue exploring strategies for future study and considerations that may impact adoption of HIE strategies in Oregon.
- September 22, 12:00-1:00: [HITOC education session on Oregon's Health IT Landscape](#).
 - This one-hour webinar will provide a high-level orientation to the health IT tools in use in Oregon, gaps and challenges, and potential implications for HITOC's strategic planning work.

Want to weigh in on OHA's Health IT work? How to make public comment:

OHA's Health IT committee and workgroup meetings (i.e., HITOC, CIE Workgroup, HIE Workgroup, HITAG) are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome at the meeting during the specified time or in writing at any time. Public comment is an important part of OHA's committee work and is an opportunity for members of the public to provide input and feedback to the Committee or Workgroup.

Meetings: Typically, the public comment period is held at the end of each meeting. There may occasionally be more than one comment period. Members of the public are asked to comment or post in the chat only during this period, and to keep verbal comments to about 2 minutes. The public comment period is held solely for the public to share their thoughts with the Committee or Workgroup. Committee members are unlikely to ask questions or respond to public comment directly but give consideration to public comments during committee work. If you know before the meeting that you'd like to provide public comment, you can email HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us to sign up. If you'd like to provide public comment during the meeting, you can message one of the hosts to sign-up. If you are unable to message, please speak up during the open public comment period.

Written Comment: You can also send written public comment to HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us at any time, to be included in a meeting please submit the comment no less than 2 business days before the intended meeting. Please specify which group it is for – HITOC, CIE Workgroup, HIE Workgroup, or HITAG. Written comment is emailed out and posted as part of meeting materials.

Have questions about public comment? We want to hear from you! Please email HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us