

Office of Health Information Technology

The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) serves as a partner and resource for both state programs and other public and private users of HIT. OHIT provides effective HIT policies, programs and partnerships that support improved health for all Oregonians.

HITOC Highlights

What to expect in the August Meeting

The Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) will reconvene on August 6, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, HITOC last met in February 2020. The August meeting will be held virtually and will focus on how COVID-19 has changed the healthcare landscape and identify implications for health IT. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will hear from HITOC Members and other organizations, including HIT Commons and Reliance eHealth Collaborative, about their health IT work and experiences in response to the pandemic. OHA will present on COVID wraparound services for individuals who need supports to safely quarantine or self-isolate due to COVID. HITOC will also receive an update on Race, Ethnicity, Language, and Disability (REALD) legislation passed in June requiring providers to collect REALD when engaging patients around COVID (see below).

The HITOC meeting will take place on Thursday, August 6, 2020, from 12:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. via Zoom (<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1618478764?pwd=bEFqaStHNm9rWFFZM0RtOEozeXlXZz09>). Meeting materials and agenda will be available [here](#). HITOC program updates are included with materials.

HITOC Strategic Plan Update

COVID Impact on HITOC Strategic Plan Update

In 2019, HITOC began preparing to spend 2020 on efforts to update Oregon HIT Strategic Plan. In February and March, OHA conducted a series of public listening sessions and collected helpful input to inform the strategic plan. Given COVID's impact on the healthcare system, remaining listening sessions were canceled and Strategic Plan Update efforts have been placed on hold. HITOC will resume Strategic Plan Update work sometime in 2021.

Legislative Update

Providers to Collect COVID related Race, Ethnicity, Language, and Disability Information

[House Bill 4212](#) passed during last month's special session, requiring providers to collect race, ethnicity, language, and disability ([REALD](#)) information when engaging a patient around COVID and send the data to OHA. Implementation is set for October, with rulemaking forthcoming. HITOC will learn more about this effort in its August 2020 meeting.

Federal Policy Development

CMS/ONC Interoperability Final Rules

On May 1, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published two health IT final rules requiring implementation of new interoperability policies in the Federal Register.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [Interoperability and Patient Access Final Rule](#) focuses on

- patient access to electronic health information (EHI) and
- interoperability among providers, payers, and patients.

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) [Interoperability, Information Blocking, and the ONC Health IT Certification Program Final Rule](#) focuses on

- health IT certification, which applies to health IT developers; and
- policy guidance on what does not constitute information blocking, which applies to health care providers, health IT developers of certified health IT, and health information networks or exchanges.

OHA is in the process of analyzing both Final Rules and preparing to inform and engage stakeholders on the implications of new requirements.

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