

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: Upcoming HITOC Retreat

We have an exciting day planned for our annual Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) retreat, which is scheduled for April 4, 2019. Council members will work on topics including reporting on Oregon's HIT progress, statewide health information sharing, and social determinants of health/health equity and health IT.

Data reporting

HITOC is currently developing data reports to communicate about the state's health IT landscape and progress toward HITOC's health IT goals for Oregon. The reports will include information like rates of electronic health record adoption and use across Oregon, and the spread of electronic health information sharing. Once developed, the data reports will help HITOC with its strategic planning efforts and its oversight of the Oregon HIT Program and will be available to the public as a resource.

ePOLST presentation

Oregon is working to integrate Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) into electronic health records and other health IT systems. POLST forms are medical orders for people with serious illness or frailty to direct the kinds of treatment to be provided during a medical crisis. These orders differ from advanced directives in that they are approved and signed by the patients' health care providers, and once in place health care providers are required to follow them.

During the retreat, Abby Dotson from OHSU will update HITOC about the integration across the state including exciting work to integrate within EDie alerts. You can learn more about the [Oregon POLST Program here >](#)

HIT and Social Determinants of Health: review and presentations

HITOC will review the themes from the Social Determinants of Health and HIT panelists that presented at the February HITOC meeting, including ways that HITOC might support HIT and social determinants of health work.

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HITOC will also hear presentations from:

- Greg Van Pelt of HIT Commons will present on potential work in this area.
- Nicole Friedman of Kaiser will discuss their efforts around a social services resource locator to connect members with community organizations that specialize in meeting basic social needs.

Statewide Health Information Sharing (“Network of Networks”)

HITOC will review its strategic plan for statewide health information exchange, hear a report on the outcomes of the Network of Networks Definitions Group, and learn about new changes to the Oregon landscape and anticipated federal changes, including the recently issued Notices of Proposed Rulemaking issued by CMS and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (see below for more information). It will use this information to inform its decisions about next steps in developing strategies to support statewide information sharing.

Meeting Attendance and Materials

Members of the public are invited to join us in person, via webinar, or after the meeting by listening to the recordings, which are available on [our website](#). Time will be set aside at the end of the meeting for public comment.

The meeting will take place April 4, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. in Suite 775 of the [Five Oak Building in Portland](#). **Meeting materials and agenda are available [here](#).**

More HITOC news:

OHPB Liaison: Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) member and Research Coordinator for SEIU 49, Kirsten Isaacson, has recently accepted the position of liaison between OHPB and HITOC. She will serve as a bridge between the Board and the Council and will join the April 4th HITOC meeting. Welcome, Kirsten!

2019 Workplan: The 2019 HITOC workplan has been finalized and approved by OHPB. Major priorities include:

- Exploratory work in social determinants of health/health equity and health IT.
- Exploratory work in patient engagement and health IT.
- Next steps for statewide health information sharing (“network of networks”).
- Wrapping up planning for behavioral health and health IT work.
- Showing Oregon’s HIT progress through data reporting.
- A potential update to the strategic plan this fall.
- Ongoing oversight of OHA’s health IT efforts and landscape assessment.

[You can find the full workplan here >](#)

OHA is Seeking New Health Metrics Committee Members

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is currently accepting applications to participate in two of its health metrics committees: The Health Plan Quality Metrics Committee (HPQMC), and the CCO Metrics and Scoring Committee (MSC). **We are especially interested in candidates with experience in health equity promotion, behavioral health, issues of health care cost containment and health care quality measurement.**

Applications are due by **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2019**. The attached application should include a resume or a brief biographical sketch.

- The HPQMC is seeking three new members for terms beginning in May 2019: (a) health care provider; (b) member representing large employer or multiple employer arrangements; and (c) Health Care Consumer.
- The MSC is seeking two members for terms beginning in August 2019: (a) health quality measurement expert and (b) member-at-large.
- For both committees. members serve initial two-year terms and may be re-appointed for additional one-year terms, for a total of four years on the Committee.

Please send any questions to: metrics.questions@state.or.us.

A Message from the ONC

Upcoming Listening Sessions to Inform the New Electronic Health Record (EHR) Reporting Program

Stop by an upcoming public listening session to provide input on [the new EHR Reporting Program](#), which will provide publicly-available, no-cost, comparative information on certified health IT available on the market.

In the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016, Congress directed the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a new EHR Reporting Program, which the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) is currently developing. The goal of this program is to provide publicly-available, comparative information about certified health IT features related to security, usability, interoperability, conformance to certification testing, and other areas in order to improve transparency of the market.

ONC has contracted with the Urban Institute and its subcontractor, HealthTech Solutions, to obtain stakeholder input on how to develop the EHR Reporting Program through public listening sessions across the country.

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Input from people like you will help determine:

- What information should developers of certified health IT report? What information from users could be made available?
- How that information is collected
- How this information will be disseminated to the public (for example, would you prefer a product comparison website, data in a spreadsheet, or something else?)

[Click here for complete details about the upcoming listening sessions >](#)

Proposed Rules: Comment Period Closing Soon

We encourage you to review and provide feedback for the two proposed rules that we shared in last month's eNewsletter. Providing feedback on proposed rules like these enables CMS and ONC to consider your needs as they make changes.

CMS' proposed changes to the health care delivery system support the MyHealthEData initiative and would increase the seamless flow of health information, reduce burden on patients and providers, and foster innovation by unleashing data for researchers and innovators. This rule also proposes to publicly report providers or hospitals that participate in "information blocking," practices that unreasonably limit the availability, disclosure, and use of electronic health information undermine efforts to improve interoperability. Making this information publicly available may incentivize providers and clinicians to refrain from such practices. Comments are due by 2:00 p.m. Pacific on May 3, 2019. [Learn more and provide comment >](#)

ONC's proposed rule promotes secure and more immediate access to health information for patients and their health care providers and new tools allowing for more choice in care and treatment. Specifically, the proposed rule calls on the health care industry to adopt standardized application programming interfaces (APIs), which will help allow individuals to securely and easily access their health information using smartphones and other mobile devices. The rule would require that patient electronic access to this electronic health information be made available at no cost. Comments are due by 2:00 p.m. Pacific on May 3, 2019. [Learn more and provide comment >](#)

March 2019



Upcoming Meetings: April, May, and June 2019

**HIT Oversight Council
(HITOC)**

April 4, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

[More information >](#)

**Provider Directory
Advisory Committee**

May 15, 2019
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

[More information >](#)

**HIT Oversight Council
(HITOC)**

June 5, 2019
12:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

[More information >](#)

Contact us

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