

September 14, 2011

Media contact: Carol Robinson, 503-856-6662, hitoc.info@state.or.us

Conference focuses on how technology can give Oregonians more control over health records for better care and coordination

Doctors, nurses, patients, businesses and students from around Oregon gathered today to share the latest trends and strategies on how technology can advance the health care delivery system.

“AIM 2011: Innovating for Healthy Oregonians” is Oregon’s first annual conference focusing on how the switch to paperless health records and exchange, known as health information technology or health IT, can empower consumers and drive better coordination of care.

Electronic health records and the secure exchange of health information between doctors and patients is one of the initial strategies behind Oregon’s drive for better health, better care and lower costs.

The nation's leader in the field, Farzad Mostashari, M.D., the national coordinator for Health IT, asked attendees to put the “I back in health IT.”

“We can and must empower individuals to engage themselves in their health through the use of health IT,” said Dr. Mostashari.

With electronic health records and a health information exchange widely adopted, patients and their health care providers could securely manage their medical records together, scheduling appointments, filling prescriptions and even communicating by email. No matter where a patient is, a doctor would be able to access the patient’s private and up-to-date medical record, avoiding repetitive tests and reducing unnecessary administrative costs. Patients could access their information from home and in one place, rather than going from provider to provider, allowing them to conveniently coordinate their care.

Bruce Goldberg, M.D., director of the Oregon Health Authority, also spoke at the conference, saying, “We have to use every tool available to empower consumers, get providers vital information, drive down costs and protect privacy. A secure and widely used health information system is how we do that.”

(more)

The conference was presented by Portland State University's Center for Public Service and the Oregon Health Authority's Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT). Sponsors for the conference included leading health IT companies and organizations that are committed to using health IT to transform Oregon's health delivery system, including Accenture and Oregon Health & Science University's Department of Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology.

"No matter what our role, patient, caregiver or loved one, we want access to quality health care and timely answers to our questions," said Carol Robinson, administrator of OHIT. "We want a health care system that is innovative, efficient and keeps us healthy. This is what health information exchange and electronic health records can help us achieve."

Additional information about the conference can be found at the [AIM 2011 conference website](#).

#