

## 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.

### Clinical Quality Metrics Registry Celebrates Partial Launch

We're excited to announce the partial launch of Oregon's Clinical Quality Metrics Registry (CQMR)! The CQMR is designed to collect, aggregate, and provide clinical quality metrics data to support quality reporting programs across Oregon. The ability for health care providers and organizations, as well as OHA, to gather and analyze data is a key component to evaluating system performance, improving patient outcomes and reducing costs for Oregonians.

The CQMR began accepting electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) for 2018 Medicaid EHR Incentive Program reporting on January 14, 2019. In February, the CQMR also began allowing participants to submit eCQMS to CMS for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) programs. The system needs some additional work before it will be used for CCO incentive measures.

Now that the CQMR has launched, we will continue to work with our vendor to ensure the system meets CCO users' needs, as well as enhance CQMR functionality, including robust patient-to-payer attribution for patient-level data.

[Learn more about the CQMR >](#)

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### Health Information Exchange (HIE) Onboarding Program Launch

We are excited to announce the launch of the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Onboarding Program. The Program is designed to support care coordination by advancing the exchange of information across Oregon's Medicaid provider network.

Funded through a federal 90 percent match opportunity, the HIE Onboarding Program will provide financial support for certain initial costs of onboarding (connecting) priority Medicaid providers to the contracted HIE, Reliance eHealth Collaborative. Priority Medicaid providers identified for this program include behavioral health providers, oral health providers, critical physical health providers and others. Participation in the HIE Onboarding Program is completely voluntary. The contract is expected to run until September 30, 2021.

[Learn more about the HIE Onboarding Program >](#)

### Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Announces Program Year 2018 Attestation Extension

Oregon's Medicaid Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program has secured a Program Year 2018 attestation extension from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal body that governs the Program. Participants now have until **April 30, 2019** to finalize PY2018 attestation submissions. These extra 30 days will provide crucial time for participants to ensure correct submission of their attestation to the Medical Assistance Provider Incentive Repository (MAPIR), as well as submission of their electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) data to the Clinical Quality Metrics Registry (CQMR).

The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program offers eligible providers and hospitals financial incentives to adopt, implement, or upgrade to certified EHR technology and become meaningful users of the technology. EHRs can help improve the quality and coordination of patient care across settings, as well as provide patients with immediate access to their complete and secure health records through patient portals. The Program has been in operation since 2011 and will run through 2021.

[Learn more about the Program >](#)

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### HITOC Highlights: February Meeting Recap

We had an exciting February meeting of the Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC), where we welcomed new and returning members with a packed agenda.

The meeting featured the topic of Social Determinants of Health and HIT, including a panel comprised of representatives from Regional Health Information Collaborative, Project Access NOW, and Columbia Gorge Health Council. HITOC and the panelists discussed current efforts at their organizations, the lessons the panelists have learned about HIT and social determinants of health, upcoming issues and opportunities, and ways that HITOC might support HIT and social determinants of health work.

HITOC also finalized its 2019 Work Plan, following Oregon Health Policy Board's approval of its major 2019 priorities earlier in the week. The Work Plan describes the areas HITOC will address in 2019 and how those priorities connect to the goals laid out in its strategic plan. Priorities include exploratory work in HIT and patient engagement, HIT and social determinants of health/health equity and next steps for statewide health information sharing ("network of networks") efforts. You can find the complete work plan [here](#).

We're looking forward to the annual HITOC retreat in April, where the Council will work on dashboards and milestones that show Oregon's HIT landscape and progress toward goals, continue exploratory work on social determinants of health and HIT, and discuss next steps for statewide health information sharing ("network of networks") efforts.

You can find materials from the February meeting, including presentation slides, our bimonthly program updates, and meeting recording at [our website >](#)

## Proposed Rule: Improved EHR Interoperability

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed new rules to support seamless and secure access, exchange, and use of electronic health information. The rules, issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), seek to increase choice and competition while fostering innovation that promotes patient access to and control over their health information.

**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.

**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.

[Learn more about the proposed rules and opportunity for comment >](#)

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## Federal Policy Update: 2019 Interoperability Standards Advisory Reference Edition is Now Available

The Office of the National Coordinator for health Information Technology (ONC) has released the Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA) 2019 Reference Edition. The ISA contains a variety of standards and implementation specifications to meet interoperability needs in health care and is curated by developers, experts, and other stakeholders, and the latest edition incorporates feedback received during the comment period that ended on October 1, 2018.

[You can find the latest ISA through the ONC here >](#)

## Governor Announces Goal of Statewide Broadband

Governor Kate Brown issued an executive order establishing the Oregon Broadband Office within the Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon). Governor Brown's recommended budget includes funding to fully staff the new broadband office.

"This is an economic and equity issue, " said Governor Brown. "Broadband is essential for businesses to grow, and for schools, health care providers, and first responders to deliver the highest quality of service. We will continue to push for policies that help all Oregonians thrive."

The Oregon Broadband Office will develop broadband investment and deployment strategies for underserved areas, promote public-private partnerships, support local broadband planning, advocate for policies that remove barriers to broadband deployment, and help communities access federal and state funds.

[Learn more about the Oregon Broadband Office >](#)

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## Upcoming Meetings: March and April 2019

### HIT/HIE Community and Organization Panel (HCOP)

March 14, 2019  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

[More information >](#)

### Provider Directory Advisory Committee

March 20, 2019  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

[More information >](#)

### HIT Oversight Council (HITOC)

April 4, 2019  
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

[More information >](#)

## Contact us

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