

## **USEFUL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS**

### **National Rural Health Rural Health Resource Center (The Center)**

The Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC) recognized a growing need for a critical knowledge base in health information technology (HIT) for rural health grantees and rural health providers. Currently, HIT requirements in quality, safety, HIPAA, telemedicine, reimbursement, pharmacy, and meeting 'meaningful use' criteria for incentives are overwhelming many rural health care providers. Therefore, TASC, a program of the National Rural Health Resource Center, has been providing informational resources, education, and technical assistance on HIT since 2006. [www.ruralcenter.org/hit](http://www.ruralcenter.org/hit)

### **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, National Resource Center for Health Information Technology**

Helps the health care communities make the leap into the Information Age, provides technical assistance, and shares new knowledge and findings that have the potential to transform everyday clinical practice. <http://healthit.ahrq.gov/>

### **American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)**

AMIA has an informatics training initiative in partnership with leading educators in the field to train 10,000 HIT workers by 2010. They also have a national initiative to promote the use of electronic health records for patient safety. <https://www.amia.org/>

### **American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)**

AHIMA is an association of health information management (HIM) professionals. Founded in 1928 to improve the quality of medical records, AHIMA is committed to advancing the HIM profession in an increasingly electronic and global environment through leadership in advocacy, education, certification, and lifelong learning. <http://www.ahima.org/>

### **Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT)**

CCHIT is a recognized certification body (RCB) for electronic health records and their networks, and an independent, voluntary, private-sector initiative. Their mission is to accelerate the adoption of HIT by creating an efficient, credible, and sustainable product certification program. <http://www.cchit.org/>

## **Doctors' Office Quality Information Technology (DOQ-IT)**

DOQ-It promotes the adoption of electronic health record (EHR) systems and information technology (IT) in small-to-medium sized physician offices with a vision of enhancing access to patient information, decision support, and reference data, as well as improving patient-clinician communications. <http://www.qualitynet.org>

## **eHealth Initiative**

A membership organization seeking to drive improvement in the quality, safety, and efficiency of healthcare through information and information technology.

<http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/>

## **Health Information Privacy and Security Collaboration (HIPSC)**

The Privacy and Security project will play a key role in laying policy groundwork to support widespread interoperable electronic health information exchange.

[http://healthit.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=654&&PageID=13062&mode=2&in\\_hi\\_userid=3882&cached=true](http://healthit.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=654&&PageID=13062&mode=2&in_hi_userid=3882&cached=true)

## **Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)**

The health care industry's membership organization focused on providing leadership for the optimal use of healthcare information technology and management systems for the betterment of human health. <http://www.himss.org>

## **Health Information Technology Regional Extension Program**

The HITECH Act authorizes a Health Information Technology Extension Program. The program consists of Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers (RECs) and a national Health Information Technology Research Center (HITRC). The RECs support and serve health care providers to help them quickly become adept and meaningful users of electronic health records (EHRs). RECs are designed to make sure that primary care clinicians get the help they need to use EHRs. For a state-by-state listing of all RECs with contact information, visit the web site:

[http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit\\_hhs\\_gov\\_rec\\_program/1495](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_rec_program/1495)

## **The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act Programs**

The provisions of the HITECH Act under the Office of the National Coordinator are specifically designed to work together to provide the necessary assistance and technical support to providers, enable coordination and alignment within and among states, establish connectivity to the public health community in case of

emergencies, and assure the workforce is properly trained and equipped to be meaningful users of EHRs. These programs include the following:

### **Beacon Community Program**

A grant program for communities to build and strengthen their health information technology (HIT) infrastructure and exchange capabilities. These communities will demonstrate the vision of a future where hospitals, clinicians, and patients are meaningful users of HIT, and together the community achieves measurable improvements in health care quality, safety, efficiency, and population health.

<http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1805&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=2&mode=2&cached=true>

### **State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program**

A grant program to support States or State Designated Entities (SDEs) in establishing health information exchange (HIE) capability among healthcare providers and hospitals in their jurisdictions.

[http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1488&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=58&mode=2&in\\_hi\\_userid=11113&cached=true](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1488&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=58&mode=2&in_hi_userid=11113&cached=true)

### **Strategic HIT Advanced Research Projects (SHARP) Program**

A grant program to fund research focused on achieving breakthrough advances to address well-documented problems that have impeded adoption: 1) Security of Health Information Technology; 2) Patient-Centered Cognitive Support; 3) Healthcare Application and Network Platform Architectures; and, 4) Secondary Use of EHR Data.

[http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit\\_hhs\\_gov\\_sharp\\_program/1806](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_sharp_program/1806)

### **Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Professionals Program**

A grant program that seeks to rapidly create HIT education and training programs at Community Colleges or expand existing programs. Community Colleges funded under this initiative will establish intensive, non-degree training programs that can be completed in six months or less. This is one component of the HIT Workforce Program.

[http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit\\_hhs\\_gov\\_community\\_college\\_program/1804](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_community_college_program/1804)

### **Curriculum Development Centers Program**

A grant program to provide \$10 million in grants to institutions of higher education (or consortia thereof) to support health information technology (HIT) curriculum development. This is one component of the HIT Workforce Program.

[http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit\\_hhs\\_gov\\_curriculum\\_development\\_program/1807](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_curriculum_development_program/1807)

### **Program of Assistance for University-Based Training**

A grant program to rapidly increase the availability of individuals qualified to serve in specific health information technology professional roles requiring university-level training. This is one component of the HIT Workforce Program.

[http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit\\_hhs\\_gov\\_university-based\\_training\\_program/1808](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_university-based_training_program/1808)

### **Competency Examination for Individuals Completing Non-Degree Training Program**

A grant program to provide \$6 million in grants to an institution of higher education (or consortia thereof) to support the development and initial administration of a set of HIT competency examinations. This is one component of the HIT Workforce Program.

[http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit\\_hhs\\_gov\\_competency\\_examination\\_program\\_%282%29/1809](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_competency_examination_program_%282%29/1809)

### **Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)**

The National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has been given the responsibility for coordinating HIT efforts throughout the federal government. As part of the outreach effort, the programs, projects, and policies that involve HIT are being compiled. <http://healthit.hhs.gov/>