



## Office Health IT

### February 2022 eNewsletter

Welcome to the Office of Health Information Technology (IT) eNewsletter! Here you will find updates on health IT in Oregon and at the federal level. If there are specific items you would like to see in this newsletter, please send ideas to [HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us).

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## Updating Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT

The [Health Information Technology Oversight Council \(HITOC\)](#) is engaged in reviewing and updating [Oregon's Strategic plan for health IT](#), and will be looking to identify strategies to ensure that health IT can support Oregon's health system transformation and goals to eliminate health inequities by 2030. There will be many opportunities to get involved in the strategic planning process over the next year. If you have thoughts to share with HITOC please email [hitoc.info@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:hitoc.info@dhsoha.state.or.us). HITOC meetings are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome either at the meeting or in writing at any time. For more information, please see the [meetings page](#).

## New Health Information Exchange Workgroup—*Application Deadline February 25*

HITOC is seeking members for a new [Health Information Exchange \(HIE\) Workgroup](#) to recommend strategies to accelerate, support, and improve HIE across the state. HITOC will review a draft charter and membership slate at their April meeting.

The HIE Workgroup is a great opportunity for individuals who want to help advance health equity in Oregon through health information technology. It will bring together individuals representing Oregon's diverse landscape of community, health care and social services partners. Workgroup recommendations will inform HITOC's Health IT Strategic Plan for Oregon and OHA's efforts.

**Applications are open now through February 25, 2022 (extended from February 18)**

- To apply, complete this [application](#) and submit via email to [HITOC.info@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:HITOC.info@dhsosha.state.or.us). If you are interested in applying but the timeline poses a hardship due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, please let OHA staff know.
- See the goals and full scope in the [draft HIE Workgroup Charter](#).
- For more information on HIE please visit the [OHA HIE Website](#).

## **New Community Information Exchange Workgroup**

HITOC approved 15 [members](#) for the newly chartered [Community Information Exchange \(CIE\) Workgroup](#) to recommend strategies to accelerate, support, and improve CIE across the state. Members represent a broad array of roles and backgrounds within Oregon's diverse landscape of health care, social service partners, and communities that are impacted by development in this area. Workgroup recommendations will inform HITOC's Health IT Strategic Plan for Oregon and OHA efforts.

The CIE Workgroup will meet monthly throughout 2022 beginning Tuesday, March 15. [Meetings](#) will be open to the public and available virtually. Please see the [CIE Workgroup website](#) for details.

## **HITOC Education Sessions:**

OHA has held a series of education sessions for HITOC and members of the public to orient to key topics that will come up in the HITOC strategic plan work. These sessions are informational only. They are optional for HITOC members, and no official HITOC action (deliberation or decisions) will be made.

## **March Education Session: Federal Interoperability Final Rules**

Please join us March 17 from 12:00-1:00 for HITOC's education session on federal interoperability rules and how they are changing the health IT landscape. Please register for the [webinar here](#). The one hour webinar will include a high level overview of the rules and will allow HITOC members an opportunity to ask questions about their impact. The two rules are:

- 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) 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act) 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 healthcare providers, health IT developers, and health information exchanges/networks.

The three previous education sessions on HIE Basics, Oregon's HIE Programs, and Oregon's HIT Programs can be viewed [here](#).

## State Policy

### Oregon 2022 Legislative Session

The 2022 Legislative Session started Tuesday, Feb. 1, and will end Mar. 7 or sooner. Legislators have introduced 262 bills for consideration. For more information on bills, legislators, committees, and calendars visit [www.oregonlegislature.gov](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov). OHA's Office of Health IT is closely tracking the following bills that may impact the work we do (note: these bills were active as of February 15 and all bills are subject to amendments):

- **House Bill 4150:** Requires HITOC to convene group(s) to explore options to accelerate, support and improve secure, statewide CIEs. The bill requires HITOC to submit a draft report to the interim committees of health and human services by 9/15/2022 and a final report by 1/31/2023 on findings of the group(s) and recommendations for legislative changes, if any.
- **House Bill 4039:** Modifies [SHARE Initiative](#) requirements for CCO expenditures on social determinants of health (SDOH) and health equity. Requires OHA to spend a portion of its annual budget on SDOH and health equity supporting Medicaid members not with a CCO. Defines types of expenditures required, including funding licenses for community-based organizations or infrastructure to enable their use of CIE systems.

### OHA Medicaid Waiver 1115 Demonstration Waiver

The OHA Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver [draft application](#) public comment period closed on January 7<sup>th</sup>. OHA is incorporating feedback from tribal consultation and public comments. In February OHA will submit the final application to CMS. For more information, see the [Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application webpage](#).

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## Federal Policy

### Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement

ONC and the Sequoia Project, the Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE), recently announced the publication of the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), marking the beginning of the implementation phase. Also available is the TEFCA Health Level Seven (HL7) Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource (FHIR) Roadmap, which outlines how TEFCA will accelerate the adoption of FHIR-based exchange across the industry. The RCE will host a series of webinars to help those interested in TEFCA understand how it works. [Visit the RCE's webpage](#) to learn more, find current resources, and register for upcoming webinars. Learn more from ONC [here](#).

## New USCDI v3 and Standards Bulletin Released

The latest Standards Bulletin is here and has everything you need to know about the new Draft United States Core Data for Interoperability USCDI v3, including 20 new data elements and 2 new data classes to advance health IT for improved care, reduced inequities, and stronger public health reporting. ONC is also seeking feedback on which data classes and elements should be included in the final USCDI v3. Public feedback accepted until April 30, 2022. ONC plans to release the final USCDI v3 this summer. Read the [draft USCDI v3](#) and [Standards Bulletin](#).

## ONC Issues Request for Information (RFI)

ONC [issued an RFI](#) on January 21, 2022 seeking input from the public about electronic prior authorization standards, implementation specifications and certification criteria that could be adopted within the ONC Health IT Certification Program. Responses to this RFI could be used to inform potential future rulemaking to better enable providers to interact with health care payers for the automated, electronic completion of prior authorization tasks. Comments are due by March 25.

## White House Office of Science and Technology Policy RFI

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy seeks to develop digital health care services that emphasize equity in treatment. Social workers, religious organizations, community health centers, telehealth practitioners and peer recovery specialists are urged to [submit comments](#) by February 28.

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## Upcoming Events

### OHA Health IT Meetings/Events

- March 10: [HITAG Meeting](#)
  - The next Health Information Technology Advisory Group ([HITAG](#)) meeting will be Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 4:00 pm via Zoom. HITAG includes health IT representatives from each CCO. The meeting will include updates from the Office of Health IT, discussion of the CCO 2022 Updated HIT Roadmap Template, 2022 CCO HIT Data Reporting Guidance, and a summary of CCO 2021 efforts to support HIE for care coordination and hospital event notifications, including presentations from several CCOs on their work in this area.
- March 15: [CIE Workgroup Meeting](#)
  - The first meeting of the Community Information Exchange (CIE) Workgroup will be March 15, 12:30 – 3:00. The meeting will include introductions, group agreements, reviewing the workplan, and high-level discussions of the vision for the group. For information as materials

become available or to join the meeting, please see the [CIE Workgroup website](#).

- March 17: [HITOC Education Session—Federal Interoperability Rules](#)
  - Please join us March 17 from 12:00-1:00 for HITOC’s education session on federal interoperability rules and how they are changing the health IT landscape. The one hour webinar will include a high level overview of the rules and will allow HITOC members an opportunity to ask questions about their impact. Please register at the link above.
- April 7<sup>th</sup>: [HITOC](#)
  - Meeting topics will include discussing the HIE Workgroup draft charter and membership slate, hearing updates on the CIE Workgroup, outcomes of the 2022 legislative session, and finalizing the Strategic Plan for Health IT vision statement. HITOC meetings are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome either at the meeting or in writing at any time (send to: [INFO@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:INFO@dhsosha.state.or.us)). For more information, please see the [website](#).