

# Public Health Informatics Newsletter

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## Program Update

### Do Not Forget to Apply for NACCHO's Model Practice Program

This is a friendly reminder that NACCHO is currently accepting Model Practice applications online until February 12, 2009. Only online applications will be accepted. Model Practices are initiatives that demonstrate exemplary and replicable qualities in response to an identified public health need. There have been remarkable advances in health IT over the last decade supportive of local public health needs. Given this progress, it is imperative that other local health departments are able to use resources and tools that have proven to be effective. As such we strongly encourage you to submit your innovative health IT and public health informatics practices so NACCHO can nationally recognize and promote your outstanding local public health practice.

The Model Practice application can be found here:  
<http://www.naccho.org/topics/modelpractices/>

## News

### CMS and ONC Release 'Meaningful Use' and EHR Certification Standards

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released proposed regulations defining the "meaningful use" of electronic health records. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) also released an interim final rule describing the required certification standards for EHR technology. There will be a 60 day public comment period after the regulations are published in the Federal Register. The interim final rule on EHR certification standards will take effect 30 days after publication.

[Learn more about the regulations](#)

### Health Care Reform Bill Includes Health IT Provisions

The Senate passed Health Care Reform legislation that addresses health IT provisions. The bill calls for the establishment of standards for the exchange of health information. The bill also develops a payment structure for insurance exchanges and grants to establish community based health teams that support the application of health IT.

[Learn more about the health IT provisions in the bill](#)

### CMS Awards Funds to Tennessee and Pennsylvania to Design EHR Incentive Program

CMS has awarded Tennessee and Pennsylvania's Medicaid program federal matching funds to help implement an electronic health record (EHR) incentive program for Medicaid providers. The funds will be used to assist in planning activities to implement an EHR incentive program.

[Learn more about the program](#)

### PHDSC Releases Business Case for Public Health in Health IT Standardization

The Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC) recently released "Business Case: The Role of Public Health in National Health Information Technology Standardization." The Business Case document gives an in-depth analysis on the national health IT standardization process and its' implications on public health. The document also describes the role of state and local public health in building an "organized public health voice on health IT standards."

[Learn more about the release](#)

### Attending the 2010 Preparedness Summit? Take advantage of the opportunity to voice your opinion about Health IT!

NACCHO is conducting an informatics needs assessment to collect information about current informatics/health IT capacity and needs in LHDs. Following up on an online survey carried out over the past few months, NACCHO will conduct focus groups to explore the themes identified in more depth. You are invited to share your thoughts at one of the focus groups NACCHO will run during the Preparedness Summit.

[Learn more about the needs assessment](#)

For information about NACCHO's Informatics program, please contact us at [phinformatix@naccho.org](mailto:phinformatix@naccho.org).

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## Events

### Health IT Summit for Government Leaders

The Health IT Summit for Government Leaders will be held February 3 - February 5 at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington DC.

[Learn more about the conference](#)

### National Health Policy Conference

The National Health Policy Conference hosted by AcademyHealth and Health Affairs will be held February 8 - February 9 at the JW Marriott in Washington DC.

[Learn more about the conference](#)

### HIMSS 2010

HIMSS 2010 will be held March 1 - 4 at the Georgia World Congress Center.

[Learn more about the conference](#)

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## Funding Opportunities

### ONC Announces Additional Funding

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has made available additional funds that will support the expansion of health IT capacity and workforce at the local level. The Competency Examination Program will provide \$6 million to an institution of higher learning to support the development of a health IT competency examination to individuals completing programs. The University-Based Training Program will provide \$32 million to support academic program development that will lead to a university-issued certificate of advanced training. Additionally, the ONC has established the Strategic Health IT Advanced Research Projects (SHARP) Program to fund research focused on achieving breakthrough advances to address well-documented problems that have impeded adoption of health IT.

[Learn more about the funding opportunities](#)



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