

Public Health Informatics Newsletter

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Program Update

HITECH Grant Survey

NACCHO's Public Health Informatics program has developed a survey that seeks to collect information on local health departments that have applied and been awarded a HITECH Grant. The outcome of the survey will result in a database of information on best practices. In all, the information will help to create collaboration

News

Request for Comments on "Meaningful Use" of Electronic Health Records



NACCHO needs your help in submitting comments to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) about the meaningful use of electronic health record (EHR) technology. The CMS EHR incentive program will provide payments to eligible professionals (EPs) and eligible hospitals participating in Medicare and Medicaid programs that adopt and meaningfully use certified EHR technology, which may include some local health departments (LHDs).

Comments are due by Monday, March 15th at noon

[Submit Comments Here>>](#)

HHS Issues Proposed Rule for Certifying EHRs

The Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute of Standards and Technology proposed a rule (released on March 2nd) that would create a two-phase certification program. The first phase will allow for quick adoption of EHR technology. The second phase being the permanent program will separate the responsibility for testing and certifying and provide for testing of IT systems other than EHRs and EHR modules. In order for providers to be qualified for the \$17 billion in stimulus incentive payments they must use a certified system. The payments will begin by October 2010.

[More>>](#)

between LHDs, increase technical assistance for LHDs to adopt health information technologies, and access to more resources not currently involved in these projects. Please visit the following link to take the survey-[More](#)

EHR market forecast at \$5.4B by 2015

According to a new report released by Global Industry Analysts, by the year 2015 North America will exceed by \$5.4 billion in EMR systems. Some of the listed factors contribution to the adoption of EMR include: effective management of the medication process, substantial clinical improvement, minimization of staff, and extraction of detailed data, according to GIA.

[More>>](#)

For information about NACCHO's informatics program, please contact us at phinformatix@naccho.org.

Biggest Swine Flu Regret for US: Vaccine Chaos

After the H1N1 vaccine chaos, CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden said that electronic health record would have helped in H1N1 vaccine distribution. "Our colleagues in the U.K. said no problem -- we just tapped into the electronic health records," Frieden said. They were able to identify patients with high-risk conditions and invite them to come in and be vaccinated by appointment.

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Resources

New Tools!

The NACCHO Public Health Informatics Toolbox has recently been updated. Please visit the link for more information on the following tools:

- 1)Creating Local Community Information Networks: Kittitas County Demonstration
- 2)Creating Local Community Information Networks: City of Milwaukee Demonstration
- 3)Public Health Informatics Profile Toolkit

- 4)Public Health and Electronic Health Information Exchange: A Guide to Local Agency Leadership
- 5)The Value of Health IT in Improving Population Health and Transforming Public Health Practice

*note that you must be a member to access NACCHO's Toolbox

[Visit Toolbox >>](#)

ESRI-GeoMed

Need more evidence about how geographic information contained within our own place histories in addition to the standard questions regarding genetics and lifestyle? Geographic Information System (GIS) can be a valuable resource to public health organizations for explaining events, predicting outcomes, and planning strategies. Please visit "Linking Your Health to Your Environment"

[Visit ESRI-GeoMed >>](#)

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) is now on Twitter!



Join ONC_HealthIT on Twitter. Stay connected. Get the latest Health IT news and ONC program info.

[Follow ONC_HealthIT >>](#)

OJPHI is here!

On Dec. 10 the Online Journal of Public Health Informatics (OJPHI) was published. OJPHI is the nation's first journal dedicated to the dissemination of research and evidence-based information on public health informatics to practitioners and health policy-makers.

[More >>](#)

Events

HIPAA Compliance Congress: Data Protection and Privacy Compliance Under the HITECH Act

March 17, 2010 - March 18, 2010 | The Helmsley Park Lane – New

York, NY

At this conference, you will hear directly from HHS, FTC, and state AGs to learn what new regulations are on the horizon and how they plan to enforce existing laws and regulations. Be better prepared to prevent penalties and enforcement actions by learning from the enforcers themselves what you should and should not be doing.

[Register >>](#)

CIO Healthcare Summit

May 9, 2010 - May 12, 2010 | Scottsdale, AZ

The CIO Healthcare Summit is a gathering for C-suite executives and industry thought leaders to discuss IT challenges currently facing the healthcare industry, including improving patient care, controlling costs and meeting government regulations.

[Register >>](#)

Spring Health IT Summit

May 12, 2010 - May 13, 2010 | San Francisco, CA

The Spring Health IT Summit brings together C-level, physician, practice management and IT decision-makers from North America's leading provider organizations and physician practices. For two full days, executives interact with a national audience of peers, national leaders and solution providers featuring the latest solutions for practice management, mobility, telemedicine, outsourcing, IT infrastructure, next-

generation electronic medical records, disease management, and more.

[Register >>](#)

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Opportunity

NHIN University

The Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) is providing stakeholders an opportunity to gain foundational knowledge by offering a series of FREE webinars that explain how NHIN works, and the building of trust for safe and secure health information exchange. For more information please visit the link to register.

[Register >>](#)

HIMSS Davies Award



Since 1994, the Nicholas E. Davies Awards of Excellence program has rewarded excellence in the implementation and value derived from the use of healthcare information technology (HIT), by provider organizations, private practices, public health entities, and community health organizations. The 2010 Davies Organizational applications are due Friday, April 16, 2010.

[Apply Now! >>](#)



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