



eRECORDS, Inc.'s HITECH Meaningful News is a medium to share the latest news, updates and analysis in the world of ARRA, HITECH Act and "meaningful use". eRECORDS advisors collate, review and assess mountain of data down to the most relevant information so that you can focus your time in delivering the highest quality of healthcare.

eRECORDS Perspectives

What's on eRECORDS' mind lately?

A new section started this month, we will share what's been the most exciting, scary or intriguing for us in the areas of HITECH Act, Meaningful Use and Health IT. We'll continue to cover Meaningful Use Myths under this section as well.

The promise of connected data. At eRECORDS, our vision speaks to the realization of connected healthcare utilizing standardized data to drive innovations and improvements. In pursuit of this vision, we are constantly exploring how data is collected, standardized and used throughout healthcare. This vision is certainly not unique and same sentiments are shared by many in the industry. We've been exposed to many tools and systems that address the collection and usage of data and they are both awe inspiring and impressive in technical achievements. Millions of records, thousands of data points, and benchmark information are processed and delivered in just few seconds. Unfortunately, however impressive these tools are, we are still far from reaching the promise of connected data. What if the newly implemented performance key indicator shows Dr. Smith is not performing as well as Dr. Jones? Practice A is falling behind of Practice C? These are interesting data point but really nothing more than that. What we need is information that exposes WHY as much as what. Why is Dr. Smith not performing? Why is Dr. Jones performing better? Why is Practice A not doing as well as Practice C? Currently, these questions are best handled by people who have personal knowledge and context of where the data is coming from. As connected data grows exponentially and move beyond normal boundaries of organizations, maintaining the "personal" knowledge will not be possible. It would have been a wasted effort to stare at wealth of data, however clean and massive they may be, if we cannot take any meaningful action from them. That certainly would be falling short on the promise.

New chief outlines the top 3 priorities for ONC. In an interview, the new National Coordinator Dr. Farzad Mostashari described the top 3 priorities for ONC over the next year. These are:

- Move to actual implementation of EHRs at hospitals and practices.
- Continue to focus on why Health IT is important. It's not just technology. It enables patient safety and reduces readmissions.
- Patient is the center of everything.

We agree whole heartedly with Dr. Mostashari. Yes, it may sounds obvious what he says but they are also right on. After years of talking about what's wrong in healthcare, HITECH Act finally gave it structure and means (funding, regulations, and common goals) to give Health IT a national voice for improving healthcare. For the past few years, we have been moving from "on paper" discussions and designs to actually executing on the Health IT vision as defined in the HITECH Act. It's time to start focusing on the nuts and bolts that includes implementing EHR systems. It has to be done and it's about time. The 2nd and 3rd priorities are just

as important and speak to the goals to be achieved via EHR and other technologies. Additional priority that we hope to see from CMS/ONC is how to manage and sustain the quality levels in system implementation & usage, patient care & outcomes, and information flow & privacy/security as we scale with increased complexity and volume of usage. In our opinion, there are gaps in both capacity and capabilities to execute and these gaps will significantly impact the sustained quality levels necessary for continuous improvements sought by all.

For more details on this and other questions asked in the interview, please click [here](#).

New HIMSS website to provide online job searching tools for graduates of ONC's Health IT workforce development program. The website, called [HIMSS JobMine](#), will offer variety job search tools for all types of Health IT professionals including recent graduates of the Health IT workforce development program. However, as of 5/14/2011, site listed only 28 postings for California. 10 of those postings were flagged as relevant for workforce graduates but almost all of them required experiences beyond what workforce graduates may possess. When searching for resumes and candidates, we could not find any specific ways to search for recent workforce development program graduates. This is another example of what sounds good in headlines serving minimal practical purpose. We hope that this site will offer significantly more value to workforce graduates in coming months.

Meaningful Use Stage 2 debate battles on. As it was with Stage 1 requirements, proposed Stage 2 requirements are being intensely discussed. On one side, it's the doom and gloom belief that healthcare providers simply cannot meet the currently proposed requirements and timeline. On the other side, it's about continuing on the path and keeping the proposed requirements and timeline. There are some valid points from both sides as well as points that do not hold water.

At the core, the staged approach for Meaningful Use is a solid plan. And based on Stage 1 results so far, it's not the doom and gloom scenario many thought it would be. What would be unwise is to materially change the proposed plan for Stage 2. That would be unwarranted and may even cause the deflation in the momentum we have built up so far. Just think about the positive transformation we have already seen in the past few years. We need to continue on the aggressive path that **makes sense** based on what we have learned so far. We believe Dr. Mostashari put a great perspective on this debate in a recent [interview](#). He stated, "We need to keep raising that bar, but we need to listen. We need to understand where people are today and be pragmatic. And, we need to do that balancing act that I think we demonstrated very well in Stage 1 of meaningful use." We hope for continued leadership role from CMS/ONC.

Interesting Facts and Figures

28%. According to a recent [survey](#), percentage of CIOs who felt that capturing and reporting quality measures is a barrier to meeting Meaningful Use.

41%. According to a recent [survey](#), percentage of respondents choosing text message as preferred method of receiving reminders for health related tasks.

72%. According a [report](#) by Surescripts, percentage increase in number of e-prescriptions from 2009 to 2010.

55%. Percentage of Primary Care Physicians using EHR in California according to a California HealthCare Foundation's [report](#).

321 and 144. As of May 2011, the number of complete and modular ONC certified EHRs in the Ambulatory side.

\$83,000,000 and 42,614. As of April 30, the amount of Medicare EHR incentives paid out and the number of registrations (Eligible Professionals and Eligible Hospitals) for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs.

15. As of May 2, the number of states who have opened for Medicaid registrations for the EHR Incentive program. For the list of states, click [here](#).

Latest Meaningful News

National

Meaningful Use Stage 2 Update. Health IT Policy Committee met on May 11 to discuss the draft proposals from its meaningful use work group surrounding the proposed Stage 2 requirements. Though no formal decisions were made, some key items are being considered by the Committee including:

- Maintain the current Stage 2 timeline, which is set to begin in 2013;
- Maintain the current Stage 2 timeline but shorten the reporting period for meaningful use from one year to 90 days; and
- Delay the Stage 2 start by one year (move from 2013 to 2014).

For more details on the meaningful use work group's draft proposal, please click [here](#).

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) held a call to educate and share information about the Medicare Attestation system. As part of its continuing educational webinars, CMS held Medicare Attestation training on May 5, 2011. CMS used sample screen shots of the CMS Attestation system as an aid to the training. To view CMS training materials, including Attestation system, please click [here](#).

Important clarification surrounding Medicare EHR Incentive payments. CMS has finally released an FAQ describing definitive (well, somewhat definitive) payment timeline for the Medicare EHR Incentive program. Payment will be made approximately 4 to 8 weeks after a provider successfully attests that they have demonstrated meaningful use of the certified EHR technology. Note that this payment will not be made within this timeframe if the provider has not met the threshold for allowed Medicare charges (\$24,000) for the year. For the FAQ, please click [here](#).

CMS announces "national testing day" for HIPAA 5010 standards. CMS has set a deadline of January 1, 2012 for using HIPAA 5010 transaction sets. As a way to facilitate this deadline being met, CMS has set a HIPAA 5010 national testing day for June 15, 2011. CMS is encouraging trading partners (Providers, Clearinghouses and Vendors) to participate in this national testing day and take advantage of the real-time help desk support and direct and immediate access to their Medicare Administrative Contractors. HIPAA 5010 is required step toward ICD-10 adoption scheduled for 10/1/2013. For the official announcement and information, please click [here](#).

Final rule that will strengthen HIPAA privacy and security is expected to be released by end of the year. Sue McAndrew, deputy director for health information privacy at the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), shared that the final rule should be out by end of the year. The regulation will include the final versions of rules proposed to provide for data breach notification released in August 2009; to strengthen HIPAA enforcement released in October 2009; as well as a slew of other privacy and security protections, released in July 2010, that were called for in the 2009 HITECH Act. For additional details, click [here](#).

New Federal Grant Program will provide \$12M to rural health care providers. Distributed through the Rural Health IT Network, up to 40 grants will be given out to rural hospitals and providers to help them meet meaningful use. Grant funding can be put towards buying health IT equipment, developing strategic plans and EHR training. For the grant details, please click [here](#).

Indian Health Service (IHS) EHR system certified for Meaningful Use. IHS became the first federal agency to have its EHR system, called the IHS Resource and Patient Management System, to be certified as a Complete EHR system. For the official press release, click [here](#).

California

California Human and Health Services (CA HHS) held its monthly webinar on May 12, 2011. This is a monthly webinar held by CA HHS to provide updates related to Health IT activities in California. Key highlights of the webinar are listed below. eRECORDS is also supplementing CA REC updates in this section with updates provided directly by the RECs:

- **Federal update given by Linette Scott, Deputy Director of HIT for California.**
 - Continuing reminder that Medicare EHR Incentive program registration is open and all participants should register as soon as possible.
- **Medi-Cal update.** Key highlights are:
 - Medi-Cal EHR Incentive program launch is still scheduled for May 2011.
 - No date has been set for the availability of State Level Registry.
 - Eligible Professionals attestation availability is still set for summer 2011.
- **CalOHII update.**
 - As authorized by AB 279, CalOHII is to establish and administer demonstration projects funded by federal grants and other source. Per regulation, CalOHII must also adopt regulation and report back to the Legislature with results.
 - Two awardees have been selected for demonstration project. These are San Diego Beacon eHealth Community and Western Health Information Network (WHIN).
 - CalOHII proposed regulation was posted on 3/1/2011. 184 comments were received. Revised regulation that incorporates the public comments will be posted in late May for another round of public comments.
- **Cal eConnect update.** Key highlights are:
 - RFP to build the Provider Directory Services with eHIE capabilities was released on May 10. RFP response deadline is June 22.
 - Expansion Grant program
 - Intent to award EKCITA was posted on April 29th.
 - Kick-off visits in process with LANES and already completed with OCPRHIO.
 - Listening Tour Update
 - 6 of 8 targeted cities have been visited already.
 - Over 167 partners/stakeholders have participated in the Listening Tour meetings.
 - 88% of participants expressed an “interest” or “very strong interest” in Provider Directory Services.
 - Planning Stakeholder Summit and Outreach activities in October 2011 to update the community about Cal eConnect’s activities and get feedback.

- **Western Health Information Network (WHIN) update given by Laura Landry.** Key highlights are:
 - WHIN is changing focus to becoming “Health Information Service Provider” rather than being the CA HIE.
 - Grants and funding – WHIN has been awarded 2 CalConnect grants, one CalOHII grant and a Reliable Patient ID project grant. LA Care is also funding a project to connect Community Health clinics to benefit low-income and uninsured residents in LA County.
 - Emerging project – Parental Data Exchange Support. Using digital pen and American College of Gynecologists standard forms capture and upload data at the point of care.
 - Next steps
 - Execute on the HIE Expansion grant.
 - Develop outreach materials and solution for the Reliable Patient ID Project.
 - Finalize and fund Parental Data Exchange Support project.

- **CalHIPSO (Regional Extension Center for all of California except Orange and Los Angeles counties) update given by Speranza Avram.**
 - Over 4,600 providers enrolled. 3,200 are eligible to receive REC subsidized assistance.
 - 11 hospitals are enrolled in the rural hospital supplemental program.
 - Continuing to focus on enrolling solo/small practices.
 - 517 providers are live on EHR with 300 using certified EHRs.
 - Contracting completed for 7 preferred EHR vendors. Contract contains significant protection and benefits for the providers.
 - CalHIPSO member only bundles have been arranged through CDW and PC Connections and will be available soon.
 - Rich Swafford (CTO) will be leaving CalHIPSO by end of May.
 - Hiring 2 additional staff members. EHR Services Manager and EHR Services Coordinator. Go to the CalHIPSO website for details.
 - CalHIPSO board has approved extending the membership fee waiver for PPCPs through 12/31/2011.
 - RFI for Data Analytics and Meaningful Use Analyzer will be released and posted on website by 5/15. RFI response will be due by 6/8/2011.

- **COREC (CalOptima Regional Extension Center, REC for Orange County) update given by Eileen Moscaritolo.**
 - Over 250 providers are enrolled. Due to the focus on solo practices, 75% of the enrollees are in that category.
 - 250 CalOptima member providers took advantage of the \$1000 incentive to enroll with COREC. Only 100 additional providers can take advantage of this incentive.
 - Developing COREC’s newsletter called “The Milestone”. First issue is planned for 6/1/2011 release.
 - Branding activities will start along with a new logo for COREC.
 - Service Partner RFP process
 - Almost completed Service Partner applicant site visits.
 - First phase of selections will be announced on 5/16.
 - Planning another phase of review and announcements in the future.
 - Meaningful Use Dashboard Solution RFP process
 - Submissions received on 5/9.
 - First phase selection announcement planned for 5/16.
 - \$100,000 HIT Grant awards for Community Health Centers/Clinics will be announced on 5/16.
 - ERH Vendor RFI will be released to select the preferred EHR vendors who meet the requirements of Orange County Primary Care Physicians.

- **HITEC-LA (Regional Extension Center for Los Angeles County) update given by Mary Franz.** Some key updates are:
 - Over 2,100 providers are enrolled (62% Medi-Cal, 18% Medicare, 20% Other).
 - \$600K of the \$2M pool of money that has been funded by LA Care to help out providers in bridging cash flow concerns have been paid out.

- eClinicalWorks has been added to the preferred EHR vendor list along with Office Ally. Contract negotiations with additional EHR vendors are progressing. For the official press release, click [here](#).
- One of the key goals for HITEC-LA is to have member references. Thus far, 35 testimonials have been collected and these will be showcased in upcoming marketing materials.
- **Public Health update given by Linette Scott.**
 - Continuing to work with local health departments to work out how to accomplish MU objectives related to public health.
- **Community College Health IT Workforce Training Program update.**
 - Moving from education and training to Internship and Fellowship phase.
 - Efforts are under way with different stake holders to offer a job board web site and connect to other HIT Job board sites for graduates.

Other News

Federal officials are investigating allegations that Google has been inappropriately displaying advertisement for illegal online pharmacies. In an interesting twist, Google is also pursuing legal actions against its own advertisers who are using the Google Ad tools (e.g. AdWare) to deliver illegal ads. Google has also stated though it is trying its best to prevent illegal ads through technology path, it has failed to be 100% effective in blocking illegal ads. Google seems to know they are liable given that it has already put aside \$500M to pay for the potential outcome of the Federal investigation. Why is this [article](#) relevant to this newsletter and Health IT? Two words – Google Health. It's hard to imagine Google potentially being the guardian of Personal Health Records.

Report outlines top 10 strategies for engaging patients using Health IT. The [report](#), released by the Institute for Health Technology Transformation, relied on input from health IT experts across the country. For the top 10 list, click [here](#).

To access previous newsletters, visit eRECORDS [newsletter page](#).

For additional resources, visit eRECORDS [resources page](#).

For questions or comments, please [email us](#).

Sincerely yours,

eRECORDS HITECH Advisors

About eRECORDS, Inc.

eRECORDS was founded with the vision to power innovations in access, efficiency and quality of healthcare delivery through connected technologies and intelligence. Our Mission is to be the trusted expert, guide and partner in achieving meaningful use.

Worry Free™ Dashboard, eRECORDS' flagship product, is the leading solution for Meaningful Use administration, planning and performance management.

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