eRECORDS
"Your Guide to Meaningful Use™"
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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.

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eRECORDS Perspectives

In this section, we share what's been the most exciting, scary or intriguing for us in the areas of HITECH Act, Meaningful Use and Health IT.

Dominos and Leadership. No, not the pizza company and how they fought back with the new dough… what's on our mind lately is the eventual delay of Stage 2 to 2014 and the equally certain domino effect on other dates - Stage 3 timing, ICD-10 timing, ACO's 2nd year MU requirements – that will likely be counted on by the same folks who lobbied for Stage 2 delays. There are certainly good and sound reasons for Meaningful Use Workgroup's recommendations to HIT Policy Committee on the ***timing*** of Stage 2. However, let's not forget the actual ***scope*** of Stage 2 is still to be determined and we dearly hope that they are set as high as they can be. Delay in Stage 2 timing is one thing but if the scope gets reduced on top of that, it will certainly slow down the momentum we've worked so hard to build. The success of the healthcare transformation needs, **actually requires**, both far reaching scope and the fast pace that can drive the innovation cycles. We hope the leaders in the industry, both public and private, ***lead*** us by challenging us rather than simply appeasing us.

Interesting Facts and Figures

13 and 25. How many RHIOs can meet the basic criteria for the meaningful use of EHR out of 75. How many are financially viable. Speaks volumes on the state of HIE/HIO. Read the coverage here.

7/3. The last day that Eligible Hospital and CAHs can begin their 90-day reporting period in Fiscal Year 2011 for the Medicare EHR Incentive Program.

$5M. Size of the contracted awarded to two companies during ONC's launch of the Investing in Innovations Initiative (i2 Initiative). You can read the press release here and we'll try to keep track of how much impact this will have.

76%. Percentage of Fortune 50 that are either in health industry or with a health division. A report from PwC, "The new gold rush: Prospectors are hoping to mine the opportunities from the health industry", with rosy outlook.

75 and 10,989,838. How far, in miles, paper patient records were found after a tornado hit a Missouri based hospital and total individuals, so far, affected by data breach according to this government web site. In somewhat related news, a proposed rule was issued (pdf) by HHS Office for Civil Rights on strengthening the accounting of disclosures.

24 and 359. Number of certified complete EHRs on 10/15/2010 and 6/14/2011.

Latest Meaningful News

National

Health IT Policy Committee endorses the recommendation to delay Stage 2 of Meaningful Use. During the meeting held on June 8, Health IT Policy Committee endorsed the recommendation to the delay of Stage 2 roll out by one year until 2014 for those providers attesting to Stage 1 this year. As a result, providers will have three years, through 2013, to meet Stage 1 meaningful use requirements. The primary reason for this delay seems to be centered on the original 2013 timeframe not giving EHR vendors enough time to meet Stage 2 requirements. Ripple effect of this delay should be wide, affecting ICD 10, ACO program and others. For a more detailed article, please click here.

First Medicare Incentive Payments Made. On May 19, 2011, CMS issued the first round of payments totaling $75 million to providers under the Medicare EHR Incentive Program. Also, $83 million dollars has been paid to Medicaid providers under the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Of course, the importance of Medicare announcement is that these providers actually met the MU and CQM measure requirements whereas Medicaid payments are under A/I/U. For the full press release, click here.

CMS has also compiled a consolidated list of Frequently Asked Questions on the EHR Incentive Programs and made that list available through their website. To view this FAQ, click here.

ONC Names Approved Accreditor for EHR Certification Program. ONC has named American National Standard Institute (ANSI) as the ONC-AA (ONC Authorized Accreditor). This sole accreditor will be tasked with accrediting ONC authorized EHR certification entities. Current authorized EHR certification entities include Surescripts, ICSA Labs, SLI Global Solutions, InfoGard Laboratories, CCHIT and Drummond Group. For the full story, please click here.

Lawmakers seek changes to EHR Incentive Payments for multi-campus hospitals. Rep. Michael Burgess is planning to introduce a bill that would require CMS to provide EHR incentive payments to **each campus** in a multi-campus hospital system. Under the current regulation, incentive payments are paid according hospitals Medicare provider numbers, not individual campuses. If this bill is passed, it would have a significant financial benefit to multi-campus hospitals. For the full article, click here.

Three Regional Extension Centers reach its enrollment goals. Regional extension centers in Maryland, South Carolina and Massachusetts were the first set of Regional Extension Centers to reach their respective enrollment goals.

ONC announces Health Information Technology Professional (HIT Pro) competency examination. It will be interesting to see how well this “certification” will be received by the industry compared to existing certifications and credentials. HIT Pro exams parallel the “roles” trained under Work Force development program. The cost of each exam is $299 but qualified candidates can request 1 free voucher. Find out more at HIT Pro homepage.

California

California Human and Health Services (CA HHS) held its monthly webinar on June 9, 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:

- **California update.**
  - California has launched a new eHealth portal (www.ehealth.ca.gov) with the purpose to be the "hub" for those interested in adoption of Health Information Exchange (HIE).
    - Initial focus is the EHR Incentive Program but will expand to all HIT related information and materials.
    - This site is a collaborative effort sponsored by CHHS and Cal eConnect.
  - Encouraging all California providers to register for the Medicare and/or Medicaid EHR Incentive Program at the CMS site as soon as possible. Providers do not have to have a certified EHR in place to register. To view step by step registration guide, click here.

- **Medi-Cal update.**
  - Have completed review and update of Eligible Hospital and Eligible Provider requirements.
  - Group requirement review and update will be completed shortly.
  - Current plan is to begin attestation for Eligible Hospitals first, then roll out Group and Eligible Provider functionality.

- **CalOHII update.**
  - No update was provided on this call.

- **Cal eConnect update.**
  - Provider Directory Services with eHIE capabilities RFP update.
    - Bidders' conference was held in Sacramento on 5/17.
    - RFP responses due by 6/22.
    - RFP response reviews are scheduled to occur between 6/22 and 7/8.
  - Announced intent to award the contract for business planning services to Top Tier Consulting on 5/9. Committed to delivering a business plan to BOD in October.
  - Lab assessment update.
    - Focused on determining a lab's readiness to adopt ELINCS.
    - Because of about 9,000 labs in CA, it was determined that it is too challenging for all the labs to adopt ELINCS. Priority will be placed in large hospitals and independent labs due to the large % of tests these entities performed and their readiness to adopt ELINCS.
  - A new web site will be launched in July (hiepolicy.org) to create a forum for public participation in Cal eConnect's activities.
  - 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.**
  - No update on this call.

- **CalHIPSO (Regional Extension Center for all of California except Orange and Los Angeles counties) update.**
  - Over 5,400 providers enrolled. 4,100 providers are eligible to receive REC subsidized assistance.
  - 12 hospitals are enrolled in the rural hospital supplemental program.
  - Continuing to focus on enrolling solo/small practices. Currently have enrolled 1,000 such providers with the goal of enrolling over 2,000 providers.
  - Over 700 providers have reached "Go Live" (Milestone 2).
  - CalHIPSO and its LECs are working closely with the 7 contracted EHR vendors. Currently developing guidelines and joint marketing materials with the EHR vendors.

- Provider member portal is up and running on the CalHIPSO website.
- Announced free educational webinar series for CalHIPSO members focusing on Meaningful Use, earning EHR incentive payments and EHR implementation.
- Dorian Seamster, formerly Director of QI Services has been promoted to Chief of Health Information Services. eRECORDS would like to convey congratulations to Dorian!
- CalHIPSO is still looking to fill the EHR Service Manager position. Please visit CalHIPSO website for details.

- **COREC (CalOptima Regional Extension Center, REC for Orange County) update.**
  - Over 250 providers are enrolled. Due to the focus on solo practices, 75% of the enrollees are in that category.
  - Website and Physician Education Portal is in process and will be launched soon.
  - Focused Orange County Outreach events are taking place with key stakeholders, including
    - Network of Ethnic Physician Organization (NEPO).
    - Orange County Medical Association (OCMA) of Orange County Community Health Centers.
  - Service Partner RFP update.
    - Selected comprehensive and closed network service partners on 6/1.
  - Meaningful Use Dashboard Solution RFP update.
    - Selected two vendors and currently in contract negotiations.
  - Preferred EHR Vendor RFP will be released later this month.
  - HIT Community Health Center grants awarded.
    - Nhan Hoa
    - Central City CHC
    - Vietnamese Community of OC

- **HITEC-LA (Regional Extension Center for Los Angeles County) update.**
  - Over 2,300 providers are enrolled (62% Medi-Cal, 20% Medicare, 18% Other).
    - Consists of 50 clinics and 633 practices.
  - 1,500 practice assessments have been completed.
  - Over 1,100 providers are receiving on-site assistance.
  - 264 providers reached "Go Live" stage with a few at Meaningful Use.
  - $2M L.A. Care EHR Incentive Program update.
    - $592K has been disbursed to 169 providers.
  - Negotiating with EHR vendors on 40 provider-centric terms.

- **Public Health update.**
  - To view the responses to RFI from stakeholders, visit the CDPH web site to learn about:
    - Meaningful Use Objectives.
      - Immunization
      - Laboratory Reporting
      - Syndromic Surveillance
    - Public Health capacity at CDPH and LHDs.
    - California HIE landscape.

- **Community College Health IT Workforce Training Program update.**
  - No update on this call.

Other News

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is keeping a close eye on mobile apps for medical purposes. As mobile apps for healthcare become more and more sophisticated, FDA is showing interest in regulating these apps in the near future. Some fear regulations may stifle or slow the innovations in healthcare mobile apps but that also needs to be balanced with protecting the consumers who use them. For an article that gives a good perspective in this topic, click here.

Health IT tops the list of careers college graduates are seeking. According a study from University of California San Diego Extension, Health IT ranks first among the top ten careers listed in the survey. For the full article, click here.

Rock Health provide seed funding to 11 start-ups focused on health related mobile and web applications. Rock Health, a San Francisco-based investment firm (formed by venture capital firms and California HealthCare Foundation, Microsoft, Nike, Qualcomm and others), has selected 11 start-up companies for providing $20,000 "seed" capital each. For the article, click here.

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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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