



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

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.

Who's Making the List?

In June 2011, eRECORDS conducted a follow-up survey of Regional Extension Center (REC) web sites to gather and assess the current state of which EHR vendors are making the lists supported by the RECs. The initial survey was conducted in November 2010. Some highlights from this survey include;

- 49% of RECs currently have filtered EHR vendor list. It is our estimate that at the end, over 70% of RECs will have a filtered list.
- Total of 34 EHR vendors are on the list. There were only 19 last November.
- 22% of RECs state that they will not have an EHR vendor list.
- Top 5 EHR vendors making the most lists are; 1) eClinicalWorks 2) Greenway 3) NextGen 4) Allscripts 5) e-MDs

Summary report is available to our newsletter subscribers [here](#) (pdf).

Interesting Facts and Figures

21. Number of States that have launched the EHR Incentive Program as of July 15, 2011.

386 and 590. Number of Complete and Modular certified EHRs as of July 15, 2011.

3. Number of Regional Extension Centers that have achieved its provider sign-up goals out of 62.

1. Number of years since the Meaningful Use final rule was published on July 13, 2010.

78%. Percentage of U.S. adults who are concerned or moderately concerned that the privacy and security of their health care data could be at risk from using a computer program or website, according to a [survey](#) conducted by Deloitte.

750,000,000. Number of active [users](#) on Facebook, one of the worst offenders in using and exposing user data without permission.

Latest Meaningful News

National

CMS plans to allow eligible professionals to attest clinical quality measures in 2012. The 2010 meaningful use regulation required attestation only in 2011 and submitting these measures electronically starting in 2012. However, due to the delay in CMS's ability to receive quality measures electronically, CMS is planning to extend the attestation method through 2012. To view more details, click [here](#).

Medicaid EHR Incentive Payments no longer tied to EHR acquisition costs. Due to the critical change introduced by the [Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010](#), Medicaid eligible providers (EPs) no longer must demonstrate EHR acquisition costs as a pre-requisite for collecting Medicaid EHR incentives. That means as long as the Medicaid EPs qualify for the incentive program and meet meaningful use requirements (AIU first year and MU thereafter), Medicaid EPs will receive maximum Medicaid incentives. This provides huge administrative relief for States and Medicaid EPs when determining the qualification for the incentive payments. For the full article, click [here](#).

ONC is on target to release Stage 2 final rule in 2012. National Coordinator for Health IT Farzad Mostashari stated that ONC is on target to release the Stage 2 meaningful use final regulation in 2012. Dr. Mostashari also stated that the ***ONC will give substantial considerations to the Stage 2 recommendations that the Health IT Policy Committee endorsed earlier in the month.*** One of the key recommendations (supported by the ONC) is the delay of Stage 2 requirements from 2013 to 2014 even for those providers participating in the EHR Incentive Program in 2011. For more details, click [here](#).

CMS announces National Test Day for version 5010. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is assisting all HIPAA-covered entities in preparing for compliance with Version 5010 by the January 1, 2012 deadline through a national testing day on August 24, 2011. The August 24th testing date will give trading partners the opportunity to manage compliance efforts with additional CMS help desk support and access to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs). Please visit www.cms.gov/ICD10 for the latest news and resources on the transition to Version 5010.

Four more States live on Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Arizona, Connecticut, Rhode Island and West Virginia have joined 17 existing states in going live with their Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. For additional information about States participating in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, click [here](#).

Bill has been introduced to give EHR Incentive Payments to each campus in a multi-campus hospital system. An update to the story featured in a previous newsletter, the bill to allow incentive payments to be paid at campus level (at multi-campus hospitals) has been finally introduced. This bill has over 50 co-sponsors. If passed, multi-campus hospitals can qualify to receive significantly higher incentive payment amounts. For the full article, click [here](#).

Federal budget impasse unlikely to affect EHR Incentive Program payments. Although there are arguments on both sides, eRECORDS believes the EHR Incentive Program payments will be unaffected. As [this article](#) describes, it is next to impossible to change the EHR Incentive Program funding when the funds are already flowing. And although it is true that the funding must be approved each year, to remove or lessen the funding for the program, congress must vote to narrow the scope or eliminated the EHR Incentive Program entirely. This is highly unlikely to occur.

AMA survey finds processing errors in over 19% of medical claims. The AMA findings, based on a random sample of about 2.4 million electronic claims for about 4 million medical services submitted to the top 5 health insurers, show nearly 1 in 5 claims are processed with errors. To view more details about the findings, click [here](#).

HHS announces proposed framework to assist states in building Affordable Insurance Exchanges. In continuing efforts to provide affordable private health insurances to individuals and small businesses, as required in Affordable Care Act, HHS has proposed a framework to assist states setup Affordable Insurance Exchanges by 2014. As stated by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, "Exchanges offer Americans competition, choice, and clout; Insurance companies will compete for business on a transparent, level playing field, driving down costs; and Exchanges will give individuals and small businesses the same purchasing power as big businesses and a choice of plans to fit their needs." For the official press release, click [here](#).

The National Library of Medicine launches [MedlinePlus Connect](#), a free service that allows health organizations and providers to link patient portals and EHRs to MedlinePlus.gov for consumer health information. Providers may meet one of the 10 menu set criteria for Meaningful Use by linking to it. For the full press release, click [here](#).

California

California Human and Health Services (CA HHS) held its monthly webinar on July 14, 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.**

- Shared e-Prescribing data from Surescripts (through ONC)
 - As of May 2011, there are 302,492 e-prescribers in the U.S. according to Surescripts.
 - 91.6% of retail community pharmacies nationwide are able to receive and process e-prescriptions. 89.7% have processed at least one e-prescription in May 2011.
- Discussed the National Strategy for Quality Improvements in 2011. Three strategy goals are:
 - Better care
 - Healthy People/Health Communities
 - Affordable Care

- **Medi-Cal update.**

- As shared in previous months, Medi-Cal is still planning to launch attestation for eligible hospitals first then eligible providers.
- CMS has approved "pre-qualification" proposal that will streamline Medi-Cal EHR Incentive Program qualification process.
 - Using the Medi-Cal data, determine the eligible professionals and groups who can be pre-qualified for the incentive program (e.g. meet 30% patient volume requirement) before they even register for the incentive program. Then these pre-qualified providers and groups would be notified as being qualified.
 - Expecting at least 50% of the qualified providers and groups to be pre-qualified this way.
 - Remaining providers and groups will go through the normal qualification verifications by registration.

- Submitted to CMS for approval to include Optometrists as eligible professionals for the EHR Incentive Program. If approved, Optometrists should be able to participate in the Medi-Cal EHR Incentive Program starting 2012.
- **CalOHII update.**
 - Responsibilities of CalOHII are:
 - Serves as a primary HIPAA related resource for all state entities.
 - Primary resource for state legislature on HIPAA.
 - Medical privacy enforcement including investigation of unauthorized access by individuals and bringing actions against violations of privacy rules.
 - Policy development through supporting demonstration projects and stakeholder collaborative process.
 - ARRA grant funds management through operational and strategic plan for the development of statewide health information exchange.
 - Developing HIE educational webpage for patients and providers.
 - Monitoring federal rulemaking activities and provide input when appropriate.
 - Researching and analyzing other states' privacy/security policies and HIE information.
- **Cal eConnect update.**
 - Cal eConnect [annual report](#) (pdf) is now available on its website.
 - RFP update: Provider Directory Services with eHIE capability.
 - 10 proposals were received. 3 finalists will be selected for interview by 8/1/2011. Final selection date has not been set.
 - Business Plan update.
 - Draft Business Plan to the Board by August 15. Complete Business Plan by 10/1/2011.
 - Organizing monthly HIE Community of Practice meetings to discuss technology, operational and policy issues surrounding HIE. For information, contact Rebecca Kriz (rkriz@caleconnect.org).
- **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 5,800 providers enrolled (4,300 at Milestone 1).
 - Over 1,000 providers achieved "Go-live" (800 at Milestone 2).
 - 3 providers attested to Meaningful Use. Small number but it's a start.
 - 16 hospitals enrolled in the rural hospital supplemental funding program.
 - Local Extension Centers (LECs) are actively engaged with the 7 EHR vendor partners.
 - Developed guidelines on joint promotion and marketing with Vendor Partners.
 - Special promotions and pricing for CalHIPSO members available on CalHIPSO website.
 - Marketing and Education.
 - An article about collaboration with IPAs will be featured in an up-coming CAPG article.
 - Will be featured in a story about achieving MU in an upcoming iHealthBeat article.
 - Will be helping to promoting series of online short course held by Cisco and offering CME/CNE credit to help clinicians understand and achieve Meaningful Use.
 - Will collaborate with CMA and COREC to evaluate low-cost/free EHR Vendor products and offer educational information for providers.
- **COREC (CalOptima Regional Extension Center, REC for Orange County) update.**
 - Over 500 providers enrolled (55% solos, 25% Practice consortium, 20% Community Health Centers.).
 - 310 providers are at Milestone 1. 200 providers are at Milestone 2 ("Go-live").
 - COREC selected SpectraMD for providing educational and technical guidance resources.

- RFP update.
 - Service Partners - 8 service partners have been selected.
 - Preferred Vendors – RFP released on July 5, 2011. Responses are due by July 18, 2011.
- HIT Community Health Center Grants Awarded.
 - Nhan Hoa
 - Central City CHC
 - Vietnamese Community of OC
- Upcoming Orange County Outreach Events.
 - July 20, 2011 at OC Medical Association.
 - Kick-off event at Network of Ethnic Physician Organization.
- **HITEC-LA (Regional Extension Center for Los Angeles County) update.**
 - HITEC-LA was not available for updates on this call.
 - Several updates were provided by HITEC-LA to eRECORDS including:
 - Selected two additional vendors for the preferred vendor list. These are Greenway and GE Healthcare.
 - Holding a lunch reception honoring Dr. S. Mike Neskovic who is the first L.A. Country physician to achieve meaningful use and receive a Medicare EHR Incentive Program payment.
- **Public Health update.**
 - CDC National Meaningful Use Calls are held every 2 weeks to provide a platform for questions regarding meaningful use.
 - Purpose is to foster collaboration with others public health jurisdictions about the public health response to the widespread adoption of EHRs for meaningful use.
 - CDPH eHealth website is continually being updated to show:
 - List of Local Health Department’s capacity to receive electronic immunization, lab and Syndromic surveillance data.
 - Resource to test lab and immunization messages from the Center for Disease Control PHIN Message Quality Framework (MQF).
 - Attestation information for Medicare and Medi-Cal.
- **San Diego Beacon Collaborative update.**
 - 1 of 17 communities granted by ONC to demonstrate how health information technology can improve health care delivery.
 - Time line for this grant is April 2010 – March 2013.
 - Current status
 - Negotiations with HIE technology vendor.
 - Finalizing consent process.
 - RFPs for marketing and governance are available.
 - Visit sandieobeacon.org for latest updates.
- **Western Region Health IT Workforce Training update.**
 - Rural Hospital Incumbent Worker Health IT Training program launched - Any of the 20 curriculum components can be modified to meet the Incumbent Worker Training program needs.
 - Focused on existing Health IT workforce.
 - 10+ week course.
 - For additional information, contact Linda L. Zorn (zornli@butte.edu).

Other News

Survey finds International Physicians don’t practice defensive medicine. In a recent survey of

physicians in the UK, New Zealand, Canada and Sweden, none reported practicing defensive medicine (ordering of unnecessary tests, treatments or consultations). Whereas two similar studies done of U.S. physicians in 2010 by Gallup and Jackson Healthcare found that 73% and 92% respectively admitted to practicing defensive medicine. There is however, a big BUT to consider. The physicians in other countries don't make medical decisions based on avoiding lawsuits because they are not personally liable for errors. That is drastically different in the U.S. EHRs should help lowering defensive medicine but it's unlikely the effect will be significant in the short term. To view the article about this survey, click [here](#).

Google Health to shut down. Google announced in the Official Google [Blog](#) that the Google Health will be discontinued on January 1, 2012. Current Google Health users can download their data until the discontinuation date or transmit their Google Health data to Microsoft Healthvault and other PHRs. An article on American EHR [site](#) provides a good summary of why Google Health failed and a perspective of the future of PHRs.

Apple's App Store™ Downloads Top 15 Billion. Apple [announced](#) on July 7, 2011 that 15 Billion apps have been downloaded from the App Store™. As more and more healthcare applications are going mobile, the significance of the Apple and its App Store™ will likely continue to grow in the mobile healthcare application market.

UCLA hospitals agree to pay \$865,500 for breaches of celebrities' privacy. Caused by UCLA hospital employees' violations in unauthorized access to celebrities' medical records, UCLA hospital systems agreed to pay \$865,500 as part of the settlement with the federal regulators. For the full story, click [here](#).

Credit agencies going into healthcare? Experian [announced](#) the plan to buy a firm that provides a real-time check of patient's propensity to pay during check out. Also, FICO, creator of your credit scores, [announced](#) the creation of FICO Medication Adherence Score.

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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 healthcare delivery through connected technologies and intelligence. We support this vision through Health IT consulting services and our web-based product called Worry Free™ Dashboard. Worry Free™ Dashboard provides Meaningful Use administration, planning and performance management solutions to organizations including Regional Extension Centers, IPAs and medical groups.

Our Mission is to be the trusted expert, guide and partner in achieving meaningful use to make healthcare better, cheaper and measurable.

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