



Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel

Evaluation of a Standards Harmonization Process for Health Information

Technology: The United States Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has as its mission to enhance healthcare quality and contain costs for widespread adoption of interoperable electronic health records (EHRs) by 2014. In the fall of 2005, ONC awarded multiple contracts to advance this goal. Among these were contracts for creating processes to harmonize standards, certify EHR applications, develop nationwide health information network prototypes and recommend necessary changes to standardize diverse security and privacy policies. ANSI, in cooperation with strategic partners HIMSS, Booz Allen Hamilton, and Advanced Technology Institute was awarded this contract. This standards harmonization collaborative established the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) www.hitsp.org. As of February, 2010 HITSP continues to function under an extension of this contract by ONC.

HITSP Objectives:

- To serve and establish a cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors to achieve a widely accepted and useful set of standards that will enable and support widespread interoperability among healthcare software applications in a nationwide health information network for the United States
- To harmonize relevant standards in the healthcare industry to enable and advance interoperability of healthcare applications, and the interchange of healthcare data, to assure accurate use, access, privacy and security, both for supporting the delivery of care and public health
- To facilitate the efforts of Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) to maintain, revise or develop new standards as required to support the HITSP specifications

HITSP and its Stakeholders:

HITSP is an open, inclusive and consensus-based process with broad stakeholder representation from the private and public sector. During the last three years of this effort more than **900 individuals** have donated a total of **54,730 volunteer hours** to this program:

Year	# of Volunteer Hours
2007	12,000
2008	19,000
2009	23,730

HITSP & the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009:

On April 7, 2009 HITSP refocused its efforts to leverage its work products -13 Interoperability Specifications and 60 related constructs - to consolidate all information exchanges that involve an Electronic Health Record (EHR) System. This effort provides a foundation of standards and implementation guidance that enables the interoperability of meaningful use criteria as defined in the recently published regulations required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

HITSP Testing at the IHE Connectathon:

The number of HITSP constructs tested by health IT vendors at the January 2010 IHE North America Connectathon nearly doubled this year. Quality Measures and Clinical Research were new areas of focus.

HITSP at the 2010 IHE North America Connectathon	2010
Number of Vendors	75
Number of Systems	106
Total Numbers of HITSP Constructs Tested	43
Total Number of Tests	689

HITSP will participate in the **2010 Interoperability Showcase™** where attendees can see a demonstration of health information exchange enabled by HITSP specifications, and review and cross reference these specifications with the 2011 Meaningful Use criteria.

HITSP Impact:

As of January 2010 HITSP has published over 165 interoperability specifications and related constructs, the majority of which have been recognized and accepted by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. This body of work, highlighted below, will go far to advance our nation's efforts to enable the secure and reliable exchange of electronic health information nationwide to enhance the quality and efficiency of care delivery.

HITSP/IS01 - Electronic Health Records Laboratory Results Reporting	HITSP/IS09 - Consultations and Transfers of Care
HITSP/IS02 - Biosurveillance	HITSP/IS10 - Immunizations and Response Management
HITSP/IS03 - Consumer Empowerment and Access to Clinical Information via Networks	HITSP/IS11 - Public Health Case Reporting
HITSP/IS04 - Emergency Responder Electronic Health Record	HITSP/IS12 - Patient-Provider Secure Messaging
HITSP/IS05 - Consumer Empowerment and Access to Clinical Information via Media	HITSP/IS77 - Remote Monitoring
HITSP/IS06 - Quality	HITSP/IS107 - EHR Centric
HITSP/IS07 - Medication Management	HITSP/IS158 - Clinical Research
HITSP/IS08 - Personalized Healthcare	