

# Health Information Technology Oversight Council Health IT Policy & Program Updates

August 2024



## Issue highlights:

- [HITOC August Meeting](#)
- [CIE to Support Oregon's 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver](#)
- [Federal updates](#)

## HITOC Updates

**Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028**, Contact: [Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov)

*HITOC develops Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT to provide high-level priorities, guidance, and direction for health IT over the next five years. The Strategic Plan has been developed over a multi-year process involving HITOC meetings, extensive community engagement, two workgroups, and staff support from OHA. See the [Strategic Plan webpage](#) for more information.*

### Health IT Strategic Plan Finalized

The Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028 was finalized in May 2024. It sets expectations for partners in the health IT landscape and outlines ways that health IT can support health equity. The strategies focus on patients and consumers, electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchange (HIE), community information exchange (CIE), interoperability, and governance.

The [Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028](#) is available on the [HITOC website](#).

**HITOC Meetings and Annual Priorities**, Contact: [Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov)

### August Meeting

HITOC's next meeting is [August 1](#) from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and will be virtual. HITOC will hear updates on OHA's efforts to advance HITOC's community information exchange (CIE) strategy. Members will also learn more about coordinated care organization (CCO) health IT strategies for supporting social determinants of health.

## Oregon Health IT Program: Partnerships, Programs, and Initiatives

**CCO Health IT Roadmaps and Support**, Contact: [Marta.M.Makarushka@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Marta.M.Makarushka@oha.oregon.gov)

*Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are contractually required to maintain an OHA-approved Health IT Roadmap. CCOs are required to submit an annual Health IT Roadmap to OHA reporting the progress made from the previous year, as well as plans, activities, and milestones detailing how they will support*

## What is HITOC?

The Oregon Legislature created the [Health Information Technology Oversight Council \(HITOC\)](#) to ensure that health system transformation efforts are supported by health information technology (IT). HITOC is a committee of the [Oregon Health Policy Board \(OHPB\)](#), which sets policy and provides oversight for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), including OHA's health system transformation efforts.

HITOC has six responsibilities:

1. Explore health IT policy
2. Plan Oregon's health IT strategy
3. Oversee OHA's health IT efforts
4. Assess Oregon's health IT landscape
5. Report on Oregon's health IT progress
6. Monitor federal health IT law and policy

HITOC brings partners across Oregon together for centralized policy work, strategic planning, oversight of health IT efforts, and landscape/policy assessment, so health IT efforts are more coordinated. HITOC also provides health IT expertise to OHPB and to Oregon lawmakers so they are informed about health IT in Oregon when they make policies and laws about health.

OHA's [Office of Health IT & Analytics Infrastructure \(OHITAI\)](#) staffs HITOC and the Oregon Health IT Program.

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*contracted providers in future contract years. As of 2022, CCOs are also required to submit data files reporting on EHR and HIE adoption by contracted providers.*

CCOs submitted 2024 “Health IT Roadmaps” and “Health IT Data Reporting Files” to OHA in March 2024. CCOs reported the progress they made in 2023 to support EHR and HIE adoption, access, and optimization, and use of health IT to support SDOH needs, including social needs screening and referrals. They also shared their planned strategies to further these efforts in 2024-26. OHA reviewed CCO submissions and notified all CCOs June 17, 2024 that Roadmaps were approved; no CCO was required to revise and resubmit. CCOs will meet with OHA through August to discuss questions and provide any needed clarification about their efforts.

OHA will develop summaries of each 2024 Roadmap section that will inform HITOC and OHA efforts. HITAG discussed the 2024 [Health IT to Support SDOH Needs Summary](#) at the July 25 meeting. Meeting recordings, redacted 2023 Health IT Roadmaps, and reporting templates/guidance are posted on OHA’s [CCO Health IT Advisory Group \(HITAG\) website](#). HITAG’s next quarterly meeting is October 24, from 1 to 4 p.m.

**Community Information Exchange (CIE)**, Contact: [Hope.Peskin-Shepherd@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Hope.Peskin-Shepherd@oha.oregon.gov)

*OHA’s CIE team monitors the CIE landscape, provides educational information, and analyzes and implements strategies that can support CIE efforts in Oregon. In 2022, OHA staffed CIE Workgroup under HITOC to provide recommendations on strategies to accelerate, support, and improve statewide CIE in Oregon. HITOC submitted these to the Oregon legislature in the [House Bill 4150 \(2022\) Legislative Report](#) in January 2023.*

OHA has contracted with the Oregon Consensus Program for a CIE governance readiness assessment. These neutral consultants will be interviewing partners and holding several focus groups this summer.

#### **CIE to Support Oregon’s 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver**

*In September 2022, Oregon received federal approval to pilot first-in-the-nation changes to the state’s Medicaid program through 2027. Under the agreement, Oregon will receive \$1.1 billion in new federal funds to address inadequate food, housing and other root-cause issues that lead to poor health for people and families struggling to make ends meet. The agreement between Oregon and the federal agency, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), renews Oregon’s current section 1115 Medicaid Waiver for 2022 – 2027 and provides federal approval and funding to implement the new changes. Visit the [1115 Medicaid Waiver webpage](#) for general information.*

Oregon’s 2022-2027 [1115 Medicaid waiver](#) requires that closed loop referrals be used to support delivery of health-related social needs (HRSN) services, including housing, nutrition and climate-related supports, and outreach and engagement. CIE supports this waiver requirement, helps efficiently connect people with the services and resources they need, and helps eliminate health inequities.

OHA has no plans to disrupt the current CIE environment. OHA plans to procure CIE to help avoid creating inequities in access to services for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Open Card members (also known as fee-for-service) and may elect to procure more than one vendor in this process. Use of CIE for closed loop referrals will be phased in during implementation of the waiver but is not required for 2024-2025. OHA will coordinate with CCOs to support community-based organizations with CIE adoption, and as plans develop, OHA asks for input from impacted partners.

**Health IT Landscape and Environmental Scan**, Contact: [Marta.M.Makarushka@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Marta.M.Makarushka@oha.oregon.gov)

*OHA’s Health IT team engages in ongoing environmental scan activities to inform health IT efforts and ensure strategies and programs address evolving needs. OHA’s Health IT team continues compiling data across the agency and other sources to serve various purposes, such as informing HITOC’s progress monitoring, program oversight, reporting priorities and strategic planning. Refer to [the 2022 HITOC Report on Oregon’s Health IT Landscape](#) for more information.*

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**HIT Commons**, Contact: [Luke.A.Glowasky@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Luke.A.Glowasky@oha.oregon.gov)

*The HIT Commons is a public/private collaboration to coordinate investments in health IT, leverage funding opportunities, and advance HIE across the state. HIT Commons is co-sponsored by the Oregon Health Leadership Council (OHLIC) and OHA, and is jointly funded by OHA, hospitals, health plans and CCOs. For more information, see the [HIT Commons website](#).*

### **EDIE and the Collective Platform (formerly known as PreManage)**

*The [Emergency Department Information Exchange \(EDIE\)](#) allows emergency departments (EDs) in real-time to identify patients with complex care needs who frequently use the emergency room for their care. [The Collective Platform](#) (fka PreManage) is a companion software tool to EDIE. The Collective Platform brings the same real-time hospital event notifications (ED and Inpatient Admit, Discharge, and Transfer [ADT] data) to those outside of the hospital system, such as health plans, CCOs, providers, and care coordinators. OHA supports a Collective Platform subscription that includes use by CCOs, Oregon Department of Human Services programs, Tribal clinics, and other Medicaid care coordinators. The technology vendor for EDIE and the Collective Platform is PointClickCare.*

Staff for the HIT Commons Governance Board is developing a new strategic plan to guide the work of the HIT Commons over the next two or more years. HIT Commons staff have performed in depth interviews with each Board member, gathered input from the HIT Commons User Advisory Group, and received feedback from the Board on initial straw models of strategic approaches at its April 2024 meeting. A refined proposal for a multi-year strategic plan was presented for consideration by the Governance Board at its July 2024 meeting. Alignment with priorities and strategies in [HITOC's Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028](#), has been identified as a priority for HIT Commons staff as part of this planning process.

The [HIT Commons User Advisory Group \(HUAG\)](#) met June 28, 2024. Topics of discussion included: updates on priority use cases for HIT Commons, including enabling overdose notifications to prescribers, onboarding school districts to the Collective platform, and launching a real-time data feed of admission and discharge data from the Oregon State Hospital to the Collective platform; and gathering input from HUAG members to inform possible HIT Commons-facilitated educational webinars and collaboratives. Materials from the June 28, 2024 HUAG meeting, including the current list of priority HIT Commons use cases, are available [here](#). The next meeting is September 27, 2024.

### **Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Integration Initiative**

*Oregon's PDMP Integration initiative connects EDIE, Reliance eHealth Collaborative HIE, EHRs, and pharmacy management systems to Oregon's PDMP. HIT Commons is overseeing the [PDMP Integration initiative](#) with guidance from its HIT Commons Users Advisory Group and in coordination with OHA's Public Health PDMP program. Bamboo Health is the technology vendor for the PDMP system. For more information see the [HIT Commons website](#).*

Use of the popular PDMP Integration initiative continues to grow. 25 new organizations launched integrations in Q2 of 2024, with 19,595 prescribers and 1,994 facilities in Oregon accessing the PDMP via PDMP Integration during that period. Additional information, including a list of participating organizations, can be found on the HIT Commons PDMP Integration website [here](#).

## **Federal and State Health IT Policy Updates**

**Federal Law and Policy**, Contact: [Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov)

*See past [Health IT Policy and Program Updates](#) for news on federal health IT policy and updates to standards and guidance, including the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) efforts.*

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## **News**

### **HHS Establishes Information Blocking Disincentives for Health Care Providers**

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a final rule on June 24 establishing a set of disincentives in Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services programs for certain health care providers found by the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) to have committed information blocking. The disincentives will be administered via the Shared Savings Program and apply to hospitals, clinicians, or providers in accountable care organizations (ACOs, or CCOs in Oregon). This rule complements OIG's final rule from June 2023 that established civil monetary penalties for information blocking for health IT developers and other actors that are not health care providers.

The [press release](#) and [recorded webinar](#) contain more information.

### **Comment Opportunity**

### **HHS Proposes HTI-2 Rule to Improve Patient Engagement, Information Sharing, and Public Health Interoperability**

On July 10, HHS, through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), released the Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Patient Engagement, Information Sharing, and Public Health Interoperability (HTI-2) proposed rule for public comment. The HTI-2 proposed rule seeks to advance interoperability and improve information sharing among patients, providers, payers, and public health authorities. It has two sets of new certification criteria for health IT for public health and for payers that focus on standards-based application programming interfaces to improve interoperability in data exchange.

The HTI-2 proposed rule is available [on the ONC website](#) and will be published soon in the Federal Register, at which point it will be available for public comment for 60 days. ONC will be hosting a [series of information sessions](#) about the proposed rule in the coming weeks.

## **Stay Connected**

You can find information about HITOC at our [website](#). Meetings are open to the public. Public comments are accepted at the end of each meeting or in writing to the HITOC Chair and Vice-Chair in care of OHA ([HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov)).

Refer to past [Health IT Policy and Program Updates](#) to review previous health IT resources, historical state and federal updates, and more.

## **Program Contact**

Health Information Technology Oversight Council: [HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov)

### **Get involved with Oregon Health IT**

Office of Health Information Technology & Analytics Infrastructure: [HealthIT.Oregon.gov](https://HealthIT.Oregon.gov) | [Join our email listserv](#) for updates