

Helpful Health Information Technology Websites

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) - www.ahrq.gov

AHRQ is a Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, whose mission is to improve the quality, efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of health care. The Agency sponsors extramural research, including well over 100 grants in the area of health information technology

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) - www.aafp.org

The AAFP is a membership organization representing family practitioners and FP residents and medical students. Through its Center for Health Information Technology (<http://www.centerforhit.org>), the AAFP provides its members with education, technical expertise, and research regarding technologies related to medical office automation. Although many of the services are available only to members, the web site contains helpful general information and resources.

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) - www.ahima.org

AHIMA is a membership organization for health information management professionals dedicated to effective management of personal health information

American Telemedicine Association (ATA) - www.atmeda.org

The ATA is a non-profit association devoted to promoting the use of telecommunications technology for health care. The web site contains a Buyer's Guide to telemedicine vendors and many other resource documents related to telemedicine.

California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) - www.chcf.org

CHCF is a private philanthropic organization devoted to improving the health care of Californians. The foundation sponsors research and one of its key focus areas has been health information technology. Its web site contains numerous helpful reports on a variety of health IT topics.

Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT) - www.cchit.org

CCHIT is a voluntary, private-sector initiative that is providing certification of IT vendors. The first list of certified vendors for ambulatory EHRs was released in July 2006.

Community Clinics Initiative - Healthcare Technology Resource Guide

www.communityclinics.org

The Community Clinics Initiative (CCI), a unique collaboration between Tides and The California Endowment, began in 1999 to provide resources, evidence-based programming and evaluation, education and training to support community health centers and clinics.

eHealth Initiative (eHI) - www.ehealthinitiative.org

eHI is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote improved health care through the use of health information technology. Through its "Connecting Communities for Better Health" initiative, eHI provides resources and support to over 260 organizations nationwide that are involved in health information exchange projects.

ehrCentral @ the providers edge - EHR General Links - www.providersedge.com

"The site that provides you with the most recent and comprehensive information you need for a successful Electronic Health Records (EHR) journey, that empowers you to deliver superior quality patient care and achieve maximum business profitability."

eWeek – Healthcare - www.eweek.com

eWEEK (tagline: The Enterprise Newsweekly) is a weekly computing business magazine published by Ziff Davis Media, featuring editorials, reviews, lab tests and news. The magazine mostly covers enterprise topics and is targeted at IT professionals rather than hobbyists.

Government Health IT - www.govhealthit.com

Government Health IT focuses on the role of government policy in driving the adoption of health IT. The web site contains numerous helpful reference documents and links to other relevant sites. A bi-monthly newsletter and magazine are also available.

Healthcare Informatics Magazine - www.healthcare-informatics.com

Serves the health care industry in matters dealing with computerization and communications.

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) - www.himss.org

HIMSS is a membership organization devoted to promoting the optimal use of information technology and management systems in health care. The organization provides advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities, including professional conferences and informational material available for purchase through its web site.

Healthcare IT News - www.healthcareitnews.com

Magazine is available as an e-zine for e-mail delivery.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) - www.hrsa.gov

HRSA is a Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, whose mission is to improve access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. Relevant offices within HRSA include the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP, see below) and the Office of Health Information Technology.

iHealthbeat Magazine - <http://ihealthbeat.org>

A free, daily news digest reporting on the Internet's impact on health care. Addresses issues affecting health care policy, delivery and financing. Sponsoring organization: California HealthCare Foundation

Markle Foundation - www.markle.org

The Markle Foundation is a private philanthropic foundation whose mission is to foster the adoption of information technology in the fields of health care and national security.

Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) - www.mgma.com

The MGMA is a membership organization representing medical group practices. It provides advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for its members. Its web site includes a "buyer's guide" section that provides information on information systems and software vendors.

Medical Records Institute (MRI) - www.medrecinst.com

MRI is dedicated to advancing the adoption of electronic health records and other related forms of health IT. The organization sponsors numerous conferences, including the "EMR Roadshow" that enables providers to learn about multiple vendors in a single location.

Medicare Quality Improvement Community (MedQIC) - www.medqic.org

MedQIC is a web-based workspace developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in conjunction with its Quality Improvement Organizations. The site provides a wealth of information, tools, and other resources devoted to the promotion of high quality health care,

including a set of materials designed to assist with the adoption of health information technology by physicians' offices, hospitals, and home health agencies.

National Conference of State Legislatures - HIT Champions.org - www.ncsl.org

The National Conference of State Legislatures is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. NCSL is embarking on a new partnership involving Health Information Technology. Initial development of Health Information Technology Champions (HITCh) was supported in-kind contributions from HIMSS and a contract from AHRQ to bring legislators together to identify areas for state legislative action to improve health quality through HIT.

Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) - <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov>

Located within HRSA, ORHP promotes improved health care services for rural America. The Office supports numerous grant programs, including the Rural Health Outreach grants, the Rural Health Network Development grants, the Rural Health Network Development Planning grants, the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program grants, the State Office of Rural Health grants, the Rural Hospital Flexibility grants, and the Rural Health Research Center grants.

Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) - www.cms.hhs.gov/QualityImprovementOrgs

The Medicare QIO program consists of a nationwide network of organizations under contract to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to safeguard the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries. Under the current Scope of Work, QIOs are charged with assisting small physician practices, hospitals, and home health agencies with the implementation of health IT initiatives. Many of the tools they are using in this task can be accessed through the MedQIC site (see above).

Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC) - www.ruralresource.org

TASC is funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy to provide technical support, tools, and other resources to the State Offices of Rural Health and rural health care organizations.

US Department of Health & Human Services - Health Information Technology -

www.hhs.gov/healthit

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

West Virginia eHealth Initiative - www.wvehi.org

The West Virginia eHealth Initiative (WVeHI) is a coalition of representatives from health care, business and state government. Its purpose is to promote the broad adoption, use and coordination of information technology in health care.

West Virginia Health Information Network - www.wvhin.org

The West Virginia Health Information Network was established in 2006 by the Legislature at the request of the Governor to promote the design, implementation, operation and maintenance of a fully interoperable statewide network to facilitate public and private use of health care information in the state while ensuring the privacy and security of patient health care information.

West Virginia Medical Foundation – www.wvsma.com/foundation

The West Virginia Medical Foundation is the educational and charitable foundation of the West Virginia State Medical Association. The Foundation established the Center for Electronic Health Best Practices with support from the Physicians' Foundation for Health Systems Excellence. The Center has a HIT resource section on the website.