



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPARENCY GLOSSARY

*Health Information Technology and Transparency is a Health Care Initiative of the
Georgia Department of Community Health*

November 2006

Health Information Technology and Transparency

Glossary

The Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Glossary was developed as an educational and reference tool for the HITT Advisory Board and the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) staff.

The HITT Initiative is a health policy priority for the DCH. By Executive Order, President George Bush has called for the health care industry to encourage widespread adoption of electronic health records by the year 2014. Governor Sonny Perdue also issued an Executive Order to create the HITT Advisory Board to promote the use of health information technology and to enable consumers to compare the quality and price of health care.

In response to these directives, Dr. Rhonda Medows, the DCH Commissioner, assigned responsibility for leading the initiative to the HITT Advisory Board.

NOTE: An electronic version of the HITT Glossary can be found on the Department's website at www.dch.ga.gov under the Health Information Technology Office link.

A

Administrative Simplification

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) included provisions to reduce the administrative costs associated with health care. These provisions are referred to as Administrative Simplification. The provisions allow the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to:

- 1) Adopt standards for transactions and code sets that are used to exchange health data;
- 2) Adopt standard identifiers for health plans, health care providers, employers, and individuals for use on standard transactions; and
- 3) Adopt standards to protect the security and privacy of personally identifiable health information.

Web Site: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/admsimp/>

Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

AHRQ is the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agency charged with improving the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care. AHRQ supports health services research that will improve the quality of health care and promote evidence-based decision-making.

Web Site: <http://www.ahrq.gov/>

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)

AHIMA is a membership association of health information management professionals. Their objective is to improve healthcare by advancing best practices and standards for health information management and to serve as a source for education, research, and professional certification.

Web Site: <http://www.ahima.org/>

American Health Information Community (AHIC)

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Secretary, Mike Leavitt, formed the AHIC to advance the effort to reach President Bush's call for most Americans to have electronic health records within ten years. The Community is a federally chartered advisory committee that provides recommendations to HHS on how to make health records digital and interoperable, and assure that the privacy and security of those records are protected.

Web Site: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/ahic/workgroups.html>

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American Health Quality Association (AHQA)

The AHQA is an educational, non-profit national membership association dedicated to health care quality through community-based, independent quality evaluation and improvement programs. AHQA represents Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) and professionals working to improve health care quality and patient safety.

Web Site: <http://www.ahqa.org/>

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

AMIA is an organization working to improve the health of the nation through continued development and implementation of health information technology. AMIA is active in the development of global health information policy and technology with particular emphasis on using health information technology to meet the health needs of underserved populations.

Web Site: <http://www.amia.org/>

American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM)

ASTM is a standards development organization. It is a source for technical standards for materials, products, systems and services. E31 is a committee within ASTM that creates healthcare standards.

Web Site: <http://www.astm.org>

Ambulatory Quality Alliance (AQA)

The AQA is a collaborative effort of physicians, consumers, purchasers, and plans to develop a strategy for measuring performance at the physician group level. They are leading an effort for determining how to improve performance measurement, data aggregation, and reporting in the ambulatory care setting.

Web Site: <http://www.aqaalliance.org/>

American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

ANSI is a voluntary standards organization which serves as the Coordinator for National Standards and is the U.S. member body to the International Organization for Standards. ANSI accredits standards committees, it does not develop standards.

Web Site: <http://www.ansi.org/>

Application Service Provider (ASP)

An ASP is a third-party entity that manages and remotely hosts software-based services and solutions to customers across a wide-area network from a central data center. They enable organizations to outsource Information Technology tasks.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_service_provider

B

Barcode

A barcode is a machine-readable presentation of data that can be read by a scanner.

Web Site: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barcode>

Bridges to Excellence (BTE)

BTE is a non-profit organization that encourages significant leaps in the quality of care by recognizing and rewarding health care providers who demonstrate that they deliver safe, timely, efficient, effective, and patient-centered care. In addition to National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH), BTE participants include large employers, health plans, the National Committee on Quality Assurance, MEDSTAT and WebMD Health, among others.

Web Site: <http://www.bridgestoexcellence.org>

C

Case Management

A collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation and advocacy for options and services to meet an individual's health needs through communication and available resources to promote quality cost-effective outcomes.

Web Site: <http://www.cmsa.org/>

Center for Healthcare Transformation (CHT)

CHT is a project of the Gingrich Group, a consulting firm founded by Newt Gingrich that specializes in transformational change. CHT accelerates the adoption of transformational solutions and policies for better health and more choices at lower cost.

Web Site: <http://www.healthtransformation.net/>

Center for Information Technology Leadership (CITL)

CITL is a research organization established to guide the healthcare community in making more informed strategic IT investment decisions. CITL assesses information technologies, disseminates its research findings, and provides additional services designed to help healthcare providers realize greater value and improve quality of care. CITL's research is also used by technology vendors to develop more effective healthcare IT products.

Web Site: <http://www.citl.org/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC is a component of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It is charged with protecting the health and safety of all Americans and for providing essential human services, especially for those people who are least able to help themselves. CDC applies research and findings to improve people's daily lives and responds to health emergencies.

Web Site: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

CMS is a component of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It was formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). This Federal Agency is responsible for administering the Medicare, Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, and several other health-related programs.

Web Site: <http://new.cms.hhs.gov/home/aboutcms.asp>

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Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHITSM)

Three leading HIT industry associations – the American Health Information Management Association, the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society and The National Alliance for Health Information Technology formed CCHIT as a voluntary, private-sector organization to certify HIT products. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has designated the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHITSM) as a Recognized Certification Body (RCB). CCHIT develops and evaluates certification criteria and creates an inspection process for HIT in three areas:

- Ambulatory EHRs for the office-based physician or provider
- Inpatient EHRs for hospitals and health systems
- The Network components through which they interoperate and share information

Web Site: <http://www.cchit.org/>

Clinical Data

Any information element obtained during an encounter relating to the assessment of a patient/person's health state, diagnosis of ailments and or treatments.

Clinical Data Exchange (CDE)

CDE is the ability to exchange patient specific clinical data between disparate organizations.

Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC)

The mission of CDISC is to develop and support global, platform-independent data standards that enable information system interoperability to improve medical research and related areas of healthcare.

Web Site: <http://www.cdisc.org/>

Clinical Data Repository

A database that holds and manages clinical data collected over a specified timeframe from service encounters at every point of service across the enterprise.

Web Site: <http://www.cc.nih.gov/isd/cdr/index.html>

Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS)

Computer tools or applications to assist physicians in clinical decision making using evidence based knowledge in the context of patient specific data. The CDSS integrates a medical knowledge base, patient data and an inference engine to generate case specific advice.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clinical_decision_support_system

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Clinical Information System (CIS)

A clinical information system collects, stores, manipulates and makes clinical information available during the delivery of health care. It may be limited to a single ancillary area (lab, radiology) or it may be comprehensive and cover virtually all facets of clinical information.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clinical_information_system

Common Framework

The Common Framework is a Connecting for Health project. It is a set of technical and policy guidelines developed to help health information networks share information among their members and nationwide while protecting privacy. It consists of a set of mutually reinforcing technical documents and specifications, testing interfaces, code, privacy and security policies, and model contract language.

Web Site: <http://www.connectingforhealth.org/commonframework/>

Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE)

A computer application that allows physician's orders for treatment services, diagnostic tests, medications, patient care and referrals to be entered electronically instead of recorded on order sheets or prescription pads. The computer compares the order against standards for allergies, drug interactions, etc. and warns the physician about potential problems.

Web Site: http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=221505

Computerized Patient Record (CPR)

The Institute of Medicine used this term to describe a patient's lifetime health information stored in an electronic system that enables, access, alerts, reminders, and decision support.

Connecting for Health

A public private collaborative effort of the Markle Foundation that works to define the policy and technical challenges to health care connectivity and form consensus on how to address issues.

Web Site: <http://www.connectingforhealth.org>

Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI)

CHI is a collaborative effort to adopt health information interoperability standards for implementation in federal government systems (particularly health vocabulary and messaging standards). CHI adopted 20 uniform standards for electronic exchange of clinical information to be used across federal health enterprise.

Web Site: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/chi.html>

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Continuity of Care Record (CCR)

The CCR is a standard for communicating patient information electronically among providers. The CCR provides a snapshot of essential patient information, rather than the complete record. It is intended to foster and improve continuity of patient care, to reduce medical errors, and to assure at least a minimum standard of health information transportability when a patient is referred or transferred to, or is otherwise seen by, another provider. The CCR was developed by ASTM International (E31), the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), the Health Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other organizations.

Web Site: <http://continuityofcarerecord.org/x6169.xml>

Continuum of Care

Continuum of care refers to health care delivery across all service levels (lowest to highest) and across multiple providers.

Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE)

The CORE is a multi-stakeholder initiative organized and facilitated by the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare® (CAQH). The goal of the CORE is to create, disseminate, and maintain rules enabling healthcare providers to obtain reliable patient-specific information about the patient's health plan benefits package. The rules will decrease the amount of time and resources providers spend verifying patient eligibility while improving the information available at the point of care.

Web Site: <http://www.caqh.org/benefits.php>

Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH)

CAQH is a non-profit alliance of health plans, networks and trade associations. It is a catalyst for industry collaboration on initiatives that simplify healthcare administration. CAQH solutions:

- Promote quality interactions between plans, providers and other stakeholders.
- Reduce costs and frustrations associated with healthcare administration
- Facilitate administrative healthcare information exchange
- Encourage administrative and clinical data integration

Web Site: <http://www.caqh.org/>

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)

Codes used to describe ambulatory services and procedures. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

Web Site: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3882.html>

D

Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM)

DICOM is the industry standard for transfer of radiological images and other medical information between computers. DICOM enables digital communication between diagnostic and therapeutic equipment and systems from various manufacturers.

Web Site: <http://medical.nema.org/>

Disease Management (DM)

Disease Management is a system of coordinated health care interventions and communications for populations with conditions in which patient self-care efforts are significant. Disease management:

- Supports the physician or practitioner/patient relationship and plan of care;
- Emphasizes prevention of exacerbations and complications utilizing evidence-based practice guidelines and patient empowerment strategies; and
- Evaluates clinical, humanistic, and economic outcomes on an on-going basis with the goal of improving overall health.

Web Site: <http://www.dmaa.org/definition.html>

E

Electronic Business using eXtensible Markup Language (ebXML)

ebXML is a standard messaging notation that provides companies with a standard method to exchange business messages, conduct trading relationships, communicate data in common terms, define, and register business processes.

Web Site: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebxml>

eHealth

eHealth is the use of information and communication technology to improve or enable health or healthcare. In a broader sense, the term characterizes a way of thinking about improving health care locally, regionally and worldwide by using information and communication technology.

Web Site: <http://www.ehealthinstitute.org/>

eHealth Initiative

The eHealth Initiative is a non-profit organization with the objective of encouraging the use of interoperable information technology to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of healthcare.

Web Site: <http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/>

EHR – Lab Interoperability and Connectivity Specification (ELINCS)

A detailed specification for the formatting and coding of lab result messages from laboratory information systems to ambulatory electronic health records. The specification is based on Health Level Seven (HL7) version 2.4 ORU message type and uses standardized Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) coding for common lab test. It was developed by experts from commercial labs, electronic health record vendors, government agencies, professional associations, and non-profit organizations. The project was funded by California Health Care Foundation (CHCF). ELINCS is part of the proposed Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) certification criteria for 2007.

Web Site:

<http://www.chcf.org/topics/chronicdisease/index.cfm?itemID=108868&subsection=reports?redirectSource=elincs.org>

ePrescribing

Electronic prescribing (ePrescribing) is the practice of entering, modifying or reviewing drug prescriptions using a PC or handheld device.

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Electronic Health Record (EHR)

An EHR is an electrical secure and private lifetime record of an individual's key health history and the care within the health system. The record is available electronically to health providers and the individual anytime.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_health_record

Emergency Data Exchange Language Distribution Element (EDXL-DE)

EDXL-DE is a Homeland Security initiative for development of an emergency communication standard. The standard was developed by the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee to facilitate emergency information sharing and data exchange across local, regional, tribal, national, and international organizations in the public and private sectors.

Enterprise Master Patient Index (EMPI)

An EMPI is a database of patient identifying information that can be used across multiple enterprises. An EMPI is used to identify an individual consistently regardless of the provider, care setting, or information technology in use. Individuals may be identified across multiple information systems to enable:

- Each patient to be uniquely identified
- Global patient searches
- Consolidation of duplicate patient records
- Information sharing with multiple information systems

Web Site: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EMPI>

Evidence Based Medicine

Evidence based medicine is the use of evidence (scientific information) and clinical expertise to make clinical decisions regarding the effectiveness of a specific treatment or diagnostic test, how well it works in comparison to other treatments or tests, and what, if any, risks are associated with a therapy or test.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evidence_based_medicine

F

Federal Health Architecture (FHA)

A collaborative body composed of several Federal departments that provides for linking of health business processes to technology solutions and standards, and for demonstrating how to achieve improved health performance outcomes.

Web Site: <http://www.hhs.gov/fedhealtharch/index.html>

Federated Architecture

Allows a collection of database systems (components) to unite into a loosely coupled federation in order to share and exchange information. The term federation refers to the collection of constituent databases participating in a federated database.

Formulary

A formulary is a list of prescription drugs that a health plan has approved for use by doctors. Plans may use the formulary list to make payment decisions. Formularies are subject to change at any time.

G

Georgia Health Information Exchange (GHIE)

The Georgia Health Information Exchange is a not-for-profit entity designed to encompass all the key healthcare stakeholders in the state of Georgia for the creation of a Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) for the state.

H

Health Information Exchange (HIE)

Health Information Exchange refers to local or regional networks of providers and public health organizations that facilitate the sharing of patient information.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_information_exchange_%28HIE%29

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

HIMSS is a membership organization focused on providing leadership for the optimal use of healthcare information technology (IT) and management systems for the betterment of healthcare.

Web Site: <http://www.himss.org>

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The law Congress passed in 1996 to provide for continuous insurance coverage, reduce fraud and administrative costs in healthcare. HIPAA also required the use of standard transactions to communicate administrative health information and the use of privacy and security standards between covered entities. The law also required the National Committee on Vital Health Statistics (NCVHS) to make recommendations about electronic health records (EHR)s.

Web Site: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HIPAAGenInfo/>

Hospital Information System (HIS)

A HIS is a collection of application systems that manage all facets of a hospital operation, including administrative and clinical records.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hospital_information_system

Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP)

The Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel is a cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors to identify a widely accepted and useful set of standards specifically to enable and support widespread interoperability among healthcare software applications, as they interact in a local, regional and national health information network for the United States.

Web Site: <http://www.ansi.org/hitsp>

Health Level 7 (HL7)

HL7 is an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited standards development organization that develops message standards to enable disparate computer applications to exchange clinical and administrative information.

Web Site: <http://www.hl7.org/>

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Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS)

A set of performance measures developed by the National Committee of Quality Assurance (NCQA) to assess the results that health plans achieve. It was designed to ensure that purchasers and consumers have the information they need to compare the performance of managed health care plans.

Web Site: <http://www.ncqa.org/programs/hedis/>

Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA)

HQA is a public-private collaboration to improve the quality of care provided by the nation's hospitals by measuring and publicly reporting on that care. The goal of the program is to identify a robust set of standardized and easy-to-understand hospital quality measures that would be used by all stakeholders in the healthcare system in order to improve quality of care and the ability of consumers to make informed healthcare choices.

Web Site: www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov

I

Integrated the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE)

IHE is an initiative to develop a framework for passing vital health information seamlessly from application to application, system to system, and setting to setting across the entire healthcare spectrum.

Web Site: <http://www.ihe.net/>

International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9-CM) (ICD-10-CM)

The International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) was developed in the United States to provide a way to classify morbidity data for the indexing of medical records, medical case reviews, and ambulatory and other medical care programs, as well as for basic health statistics. It is based on the World Health Organization (WHO) international ICD-9. A new version modified for U.S. clinical care (ICD-10-CM), based on a tenth revision by the WHO, has not yet been adopted by the U.S. healthcare industry.

Web Site: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/icd10des.htm>

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

IEEE is a standards development organization that develops standards to enable the exchange of information with medical devices. This allows physicians and other clinicians to receive information electronically and automatically on patient vital signs and other data recorded by medical devices, without the need for it to be separately entered into the information systems.

Web Site: <http://www.ieee.org/portal/site>

Interoperable (Interoperability)

Interoperable is the ability of two or more systems (components or applications) to exchange information accurately, effectively and consistently and to use the information that has been exchanged.

Web Site: <http://www.nahit.org>

Institute of Medicine (IOM)

The IOM is a non-profit organization whose objective is to serve as an advisor to the nation to improve healthcare. It provides authoritative information and advice on health policy.

Web Site: <http://www.iom.edu/>

L

Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS)

LIMS is the generic term to describe application systems that manage all facets of a clinical laboratory operation, including acquiring and distributing lab results as part of clinical records.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laboratory_Information_Management_System

Leapfrog Group

The Leapfrog Group is an initiative of organizations that buy health care. The group's objective is to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety, quality and affordability of healthcare for Americans. Their voluntary program is aimed at mobilizing employer purchasing power to alert America's health industry that big leaps in health care safety, quality and customer value will be recognized and rewarded.

Web Site: <http://www.leapfroggroup.org>

Legislation for HIT

Although final legislation has not passed as of 10/06 these bills were passed during the year by either the House or the Senate:

- Senate 1418 - The bill passed by the Senate last fall (11/05) - S.1418 Wired for Health Quality Act
- HR 4157 – The bill passed by the House on 7/27/06 - Health Information Technology Promotion Act of 2006

Local Health Information Infrastructure (LHII)

LHII is a term that stems from the NCVHS report *Information for Health: A strategy for Building the National Information Infrastructure*. The report envisioned a network of local information infrastructures each facilitating exchange of information in a community.

Web Site: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/WEDSS/lhj.htm>

Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC)

A standard code set covering medical terms, procedures and diagnoses maintained by Regenstrief and adopted by the largest commercial laboratories and most Federal agencies such as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Defense (DOD), and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It provides a set of universal names and ID codes for identifying lab and clinical observations. The purpose is to facilitate the exchange of clinical lab results for clinical care, public health outcomes management, and research.

Web Site: <http://www.regenstrief.org/medinformatics/loinc/>

M

Metadata

Data about data; Technical metadata describes how and when the data was collected, transformed and should be used. Business metadata provides the business meanings of the data.

Web Site: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metadata>

Master Patient Index (MPI)

An MPI, referred to as '*Master Person Index*' by some vendors, is an electronic index that enables lookup of patient data distributed across multiple systems and enables clinician access to the patient specific data.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master_Patient_Index

Medical Informatics

Also known as '*Health Informatics*' is the intersection of information science, medicine and health care. It deals with the resources, devices and methods required to optimize the acquisition, storage, retrieval and use of information in health and biomedicine.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_informatics

N

National Alliance for Health Information Technology (NAHIT)

NAHIT is a partnership of leaders from all healthcare sectors working to advance the adoption of clinical information technology systems to achieve measurable improvements in patient safety, quality of care and operating performance.

Web Site: <http://www.nahit.org>

National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH)

A national non-profit membership organization of employer based health coalitions whose objective is to accelerate the nation's progress toward a safe, efficient, quality health care and to improve the health status of the population.

Web Site: <http://www.nbch.org/>

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

NCQA is a private not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. Employers and consumers use quality information provided by the NCQA to make more informed health care choices. Physicians, health plans and others use the NCQA information to identify opportunities for improvement and make changes that enhance the quality of patient care.

Web Site: <http://www.ncqa.org/>

National Committee on Vital Health Statistics (NCVHS)

NCVHS is an external advisory committee to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and to the DHHS Data Council. It has developed vital records reporting systems, uniform data sets, and it was tasked with oversight under HIPAA. In 1996, the committee was re-chartered to include more direct focus on data standardization and privacy.

Web Site: <http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/>

National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP)

NCPDP creates and promotes standards for the transfer of data to and from the pharmacy services sector of the healthcare industry. The NCPDP standards are focused on prescription drug messages and the activities involved in billing pharmacy claims and services, rebates, pharmacy ID cards and standardized business transaction between pharmacies and the professionals who prescribe medications.

Web Site: www.ncpdp.org

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National Quality Forum (NQF)

A private, not for profit membership organization created to develop and implement a national strategy for healthcare quality measurement and reporting.

Web Site: <http://www.qualityforum.org>

National Health Information Network (NHIN)

The NHIN is a term used to describe the ability to link disparate health care information systems together to allow patients, physicians, hospitals, public health agencies and other authorized users across the nation to share clinical information in real-time under stringent security, privacy and other protections.

Web Site: <http://www.nhin.com/>

O

Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS)

OASIS is a non-profit international consortium that drives the development, convergence, and adoption of e-business standards. The OASIS International Health Continuum TC will provide a forum for companies on the Healthcare continuum internationally to voice their needs and requirements with respect to XML and Web Services.

Web Site: <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/>

Office of the National Coordinator (ONC)

The ONC for Health Information Technology provides leadership for the development and nationwide implementation of an interoperable health information technology infrastructure to improve the quality and efficiency of health care and the ability of consumers to manage their care and safety. The National Coordinator also serves at the Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) advisor on the development, application and use of Health Information Technology (HIT) and coordinates the departments HIT programs.

Web Site: <http://www.os.dhhs.gov/healthit/>

P

Patient Record

A patient record is an individuals' health information record.

Patient Master Record

The patient master record stores all information related to the patient, from name-and-address information to hospital information, including a general notes area where any desired information may be recorded.

Pay-for-Performance (P4P)

P4P refers to financial incentives paid to providers if they met payer objectives on improvements to quality, patient safety, and efficiency. Providers submit data that is used to measure these and other metrics. Provider payments will increase based on the payer (managed care organizations, Medicare, Medicaid, commercial health insurance) benchmarks that are reached.

Web Site: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1343>

Personal Health Information Record (PHR)

A PHR is an individual's personal collection of health information, in an electronic format. It is controlled by the individual, and may contain the individual's own notes in addition to information from providers.

Web Site: http://www.myphr.com/your_record/index.asp

Practice Management System (PMS)

A PMS is an application tool that is used by physician practices to accomplish day-to-day administrative tasks. PMS enables the practice to capture patient demographics, register patients, schedule appointments, record visit information, bill responsible parties, etc.

Public Health Information Network (PHIN)

The PHIN is a national initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enable real-time data exchange between organizations for the promotion of interoperability, collaboration, rapid dissemination of critical information, and computer statistical analysis in the many organizations that participate in public health.

Web Site: <http://www.cdc.gov/PHIN/>

Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS)

A PACS is an information system that uses an image server to exchange X-rays, CT scans, and other medical images over a network.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picture_archiving_and_communication_system

Q

Quality Alliance Steering Committee

Two key health care quality alliances: Ambulatory Quality Alliance (AQA) and the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) have formed a new national Quality Alliance Steering Committee to coordinate the promotion of quality measurement, transparency and improvement in care. The new steering committee will work closely with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), which are key members of both alliances.

Web Site: <http://www.aqaalliance.org> and <http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov>

R

Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIO)

A collaboration of local health care stakeholders providing leadership, oversight, fiduciary responsibility, and governance for the development, implementation, and application of secure health information exchange across care settings.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_Health_Information_Organization

Regional Health Information Network (RHIN)

A RHIN is the technology infrastructure and associated applications and services that enable Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIO) participants to securely access clinical data across enterprise borders.

Record Locator Service (RLS)

A RLS is part of an infrastructure that might be used in an interoperable health information environment. The RLS enables patient authorized information to be found, but does not allow access to the actual information the records may contain. This allows records to be located and transferred (if authorized), while preserving the security, privacy, and the autonomy of the participating entities.

RxNorm

RxNorm is a standardized nomenclature for clinical drugs produced by the National Library of Medicine, in consultation with FDA, VA, and the HL7 standards development organization. RxNorm provides standard names for clinical drugs and for dose forms as administered.

Web Site: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/rxnorm/index.html>

S

Sub-Network Organization (SNO)

A SNO is any group of entities (regionally or non-regionally defined) that agree to communicate clinical data using a single Record Locator Service (RLS), using shared policies and technological standards, and operating together under a single SNO-wide set of policies and contractual agreements. The term SNO is used because the entities participating in a health network may not all be located in the same region. For example, the VA may need to participate in many health information exchanges.

Web Site: http://www.connectingforhealth.org/resources/cfh_topic_list.pdf

Systemized Nomenclature for Medicine (SNOMED)

A clinical vocabulary standard code set covering medical terms, procedures and diagnoses maintained by the College of American Pathologists (CAP). The federal government has signed a contract with CAP for a perpetual license for the core terminology, SNOMED CT, (Systemized Nomenclature for Medicine: Clinical Terms). The agreement makes SNOMED CT available to IT users in the U.S. at no cost.

Web Site: <http://www.snomed.org/>

Standards

Clearly defined and agreed upon conventions for the operation of specific computing operations, formats, and data elements. Includes:

- Messaging standards
- Content standards
- Standards of measurement
- Communication standards
- Performance and quality standards

State RHIO Consensus Project

A study being conducted by AHIMA's Foundation of Research and Education (FORE) to develop best practices and document successful model(s) for state-level Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) in the areas of governance, structure, financing and health information exchange policies. The study is under contract to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

Web Site: <http://www.staterhio.org/>

T

Telemedicine

Telemedicine uses telecommunication systems to provide health care and education over a distance and enables providers in different locations to confer as they treat a patient using images and text, etc.

Web Site: <http://www.telemedicine.com/>

Transparency

In healthcare, transparency is defined as accessible standardized performance metrics and outcomes information. Health care transparency provides consumers with the information necessary, and the incentive, to choose health care providers based on value.

Web Site: <http://www.hhs.gov/transparency/>

U

Unified Modeling Language (UML)

UML is the general-purpose language for specifying and visualizing software systems; favored for object-oriented software development.

Web Site: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unified_Modeling_Language

Universel Resource Identifier (URI)

A URI is standardization for naming and addressing resources on the Internet. The commonly known URL (Universal Resource Locator) is a form of URI.

Web Site: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/URL>

V

W

X

XML

XML is the Extensible Markup Language. It is designed to improve the functionality of the Web by providing more flexible and adaptable information identification. XML data files (or messages) use clear text and are 'self-describing' enabling human as well as machine understanding.

Web Site: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML>

Y

Z

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 - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); <http://cms.hhs.gov/>
 - Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI); <http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/chi.html>
 - Federal Health Architecture (FHA); <http://www.hss.gov/fedhealtharch/index.html>
 - Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA); <http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov>
 - National Committee on Vital Health Statistics (NCVHS); <http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/>
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 - Value Driven Health Care; <http://www.hhs.gov/transparency/>
 - Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); <http://www.ahrq.gov/>
 - American Health Quality Association (AHQA); <http://www.ahqa.gov/>
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); <http://www.cdc.gov/>
 - Public Health Information Network (PHIN); <http://www.cdc.gov/PHIN>
- **Health Industry Web Sites**
 - American Health Information Management Association; <http://www.ahima.org/>
 - American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA); <http://www.amia.org/>
 - American Medical Association (AMA); <http://www.ama-assn.org/>
 - American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM); <http://www.astm.org/>
 - Ambulatory Quality Alliance (AQA); <http://www.aqaalliance.org/>
 - Bridges to Excellence (BTE); <http://www.bridgetoexcellence.org/>
 - Case Management Society of America (CMSA); <http://www.cmsa.org/>
 - Center for Healthcare Transformation (CHT); <http://www.healthtransformation.net/>

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 - Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT); <http://www.cchit.org/>
 - Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC); <http://www.edisc.org/>
 - Commonwealth Fund, The; <http://www.cmwf.org/>
 - Connecting For Health; <http://www.connectingforhealth.org/>
 - Continuity of Care Record (CCR); <http://continuityofcarerecord.org/>
 - Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH); <http://www.caqh.org/>
 - Disease Management Association of America (DMAA); <http://www.dmaa.org/>
 - eHealth Institute; <http://www.ehealthinstitute.org/>
 - eHealth Initiative; <http://ehealthinitiative.org/>
 - Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS); <http://www.himss.org>
 - Health Level 7 (HL7); <http://www.hl7.org>
 - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE); <http://www.ieee.org/>
 - Institute of Medicine (IOM); <http://www.iom.edu/>
 - Integrated the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE); <http://www.ihe.net/>
 - Leapfrog Group; <http://www.leapfroggroup.org>
 - Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS); <http://www.oasis-open.org/>
 - Personal Health Information Record (PHR); <http://www.myphr.com>
 - Regenstrief, Inc.; <http://www.regenstrief.org/>
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- **National Web Sites**
 - American National Standards Institute (ANSI); <http://www.ansi.org/>
 - National Alliance for Health Information Technology; <http://www.nahit.org>
 - National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH); <http://www.nbch.org/>
 - National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); <http://www.ncqa.org/>
 - National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP); <http://www.ncpdp.org>
 - National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA); <http://www.nema.org/>
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