

March 22, 2024

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Immunization Registry Manager
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Atlanta, GA 30334

Sheila Lovett
Immunization Program Manager
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Dear Ms. Griffin and Ms. Lovett,

On behalf of the 29 member companies of the HIMSS Electronic Health Record (EHR) Association, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Georgia Department of Public Health's (GA DPH) adjustment to the implementation timeline for upgrading the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transaction & Services (GRITS) to version 2.0, originally targeted for April 17, 2024.

As the national trade association of EHR developers, Association member companies serve the vast majority of hospital, post-acute, specialty-specific, and ambulatory healthcare providers using EHRs and other health IT across the United States. Together, we work to improve the quality and efficiency of care through the adoption and use of innovative, interoperable, and secure health information technology.

In October 2023, EHR Association members were informed by their clients about the intent of the GA DPH to upgrade GRITS to version 2.0 by April 17, 2024. Some members submitted questions to the GRITS project team but did not receive any feedback. Starting in January 2024, clients shared the EMR Readiness Assessment with our members and began to submit the forms. Although requests for vendor kick-off meetings were made, these meetings were not scheduled. By late February, members learned about a website (<https://dph.georgia.gov/immunizations/georgia-immunization-registry-grits/grits-20>) that provides additional information. However, certain technical specifications and testing access are not made available until an EHR/EMR Vendor Assessment Form has been completed.

On March 15, members of the EHR Association learned that new dates were established to roll out the implementation through May and June. Our members are appreciative of this schedule adjustment, as it provides their clients more time to prepare for the upcoming changes. This offers an opportunity to ensure all technical requirements are fully communicated, allowing for clarification requests by EHR developers. In turn, this enables us to more effectively support our clients in preparing for and managing the transition, thereby minimizing the risk of a gap in access to the most current vaccination information during the transition.

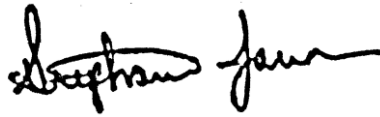
AdvancedMD	Elekta	Greenway Health	Netsmart	Sevocity
Altera Digital Health	EndoSoft	Harris Healthcare	Nextech	STI Computer Services
Athenahealth	Epic	MatrixCare	NextGen Healthcare	TruBridge
BestNotes	Experity	MEDHOST	Office Practicum	Varian – A Siemens Healthineers Company
CureMD	Flatiron Health	MEDITECH, Inc.	PointClickCare	Veradigm
eClinicalWorks	Foothold Technology	Modernizing Medicine		

To ensure a smooth transition to GRITS 2.0, the EHR Association strongly urges the GA DPH to provide all technical documentation and testing access, as well as direct communication channels, with the EHR developers serving Georgia's healthcare providers.

We are ready and willing to facilitate a constructive discussion between the GA DPH and our members who support providers in Georgia through this crucial transition. The Association's leadership can be reached by contacting Kasey Nicholoff at knicholoff@ehra.org, who can help identify a time that will work for all stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Jamison
Chair, EHR Association
Greenway Health

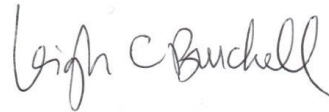


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Leigh Burchell
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Established in 2004, the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Association is comprised of 29 companies that supply the vast majority of EHRs to physicians' practices and hospitals across the United States. The EHR Association operates on the premise that the rapid, widespread adoption of EHRs will help improve the quality of patient care as well as the productivity and sustainability of the healthcare system as a key enabler of healthcare transformation. The EHR Association and its members are committed to supporting safe healthcare delivery, fostering continued innovation, and operating with high integrity in the market for our users and their patients and families. The EHR Association is a partner of HIMSS. For more information, visit www.ehra.org.