

EHR Association Mounts Response to Meaningful Use Regulations...Thanks for a Successful All-Member Meeting in Atlanta...Looking Forward to HIMSS10 in Atlanta ...and More

**Chairman's Message: Justin Barnes
(Greenway Medical Technologies)**

We begin a new calendar year after what I hope was a restful and happy holiday season for all. Many of us spent time in over the New Year's weekend pouring over ONC's 500+ page document detailing meaningful use requirements in preparation for the 60 day comment period which officially began on January 13 when the proposed rules were published in the Federal Register. Once again, we mount a challenging effort to come together as an association to provide our consolidated response to these game-changing requirements. If you attended the all-member call on January 12, you heard Mickey McGlynn (Siemens) ask for your support for a series of upcoming conference calls to go through the proposed meaningful use requirements and develop our collaborative response. I sincerely believe that we can make a difference, as we've seen our input reflected so far in these and other government-driven initiatives related to standards and interoperability. I'll reiterate here the schedule and again ask for your support. As Mickey stated so well, there are many benefits to participating with your EHR Association colleagues, not the least of which are the insights you'll gain from an open discussion that can inform your own company strategy.

- **CMS NPRM - Inpatient Workgroup** (M. McGlynn/Siemens and M. Segal/GE)
Meeting Schedule:
January 22nd, 10:30 - 12:00 EST
January 27th, 3:00 - 4:00 EST
February 2nd, 1:00 - 2:00 EST
February 4th, 1:00 - 2:00 EST
- **CMS NPRM – Eligible Professional Workgroup** (C. Jarvis/NextGen and J. Barnes/Greenway)

Meeting schedule:

January 27th, 1:30 - 2:30 EST
February 3rd, 10:00 - 11:00 EST
February 5th, 2:30 - 4:00 EST

- **ONC IFR - Standards & Certification Workgroup** (C. Parisot/GE, R. Barker/NextGen, R. Reeves/CPSI)
Meeting schedule:
January 26th, 11:00 - 12:00 EST
January 29th, 10:00 - 11:30 EST
January 29th, 12:00 - 1:00 EST
February 4th, 10:00 - 11:30 EST
- **ONC Certification Process** (R. Reeves/CPSI)
Meeting schedule TBD based on when the rule comes out.

As always, Amenia Bussell, HIMSS Manager for the EHR Association, will send out meeting notices with dial-in information. If you have any questions, please contact her directly at abussell@himss.org or 734.477.0864.

NEW!! HIMSS10 Opportunity for EHR Association Members

HIMSS is offering a shared booth space for member companies that may not be planning to exhibit at HIMSS10 in Atlanta, March 1-4. This is a great package deal:

- Turn-key kiosk exhibit (including seating, electrical, internet and graphic panel, as well as two exhibitor badges) in an exclusive pavilion area with other Association member companies
- Listing in the on-line HIMSS Buyers' Guide
- \$3750 all inclusive

If you're interested, contact Becky Washler at bwashler@himss.org or Amenia at abussell@himss.org.

EHR Association Hosts November All-Member Meeting in Atlanta

On December 2, 36 representatives from 26 EHR Association member companies met in Atlanta to review 2009 accomplishments and discuss 2010 priorities. The one-day meeting was an opportunity for executives from member companies to interact and agree on go-forward strategies for the coming year.

“We spend so much time meeting via conference call,” said Mark Segal (GE), Vice Chairman. “It was great to meet people face-to-face and have a chance to talk about issues that sometimes don’t make it to our agendas.”

Overriding themes drove the discussion:

- Achieving meaningful use is a collaborative effort between users and their EHR vendors, not something that software can deliver without organizational commitment and physician engagement.
- Healthcare 2.0 v. “legacy” EHRs – we must find the right balance between innovation and adoption, based on our collective experiences of 30+ years working with healthcare organizations of all sizes.
- Regarding standards, providers need not be exposed to the complexities and debates over which standard is easier to implement. That’s a vendor challenge and should be transparent to end-users.

These ideas and more will be further explored when the Association holds its annual meeting during HIMSS10 in Atlanta on February 27th. Look for more details soon.

IHE Connect-a-thon: Strong Participation Ties Meaningful Use to Interoperability

Now in its eleventh year, the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) 2010 North America Connect-a-thon provides the opportunity to implement, test, and promote the adoption of standards-based interoperability.

This important annual event brings together a variety of HIT systems vendors to foster compliance with standards, electronic health record system connectivity and interoperable exchange of patient health. Many of the capabilities tested at the Connect-a-thon are closely aligned with the criteria for achieving “meaningful use” of EHRs recently published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This year’s Connect-a-thon brought together 498 system engineers to test more than 150 health IT systems from 104 participating companies and organizations, including vendors, health information exchanges, government agencies and open source development groups. Systems were tested from across the spectrum of care, including the following IHE domains:

- Cardiology
- IT Infrastructure
- Pathology
- Patient Care Coordination
- Patient Care Devices
- Quality, Research and Public Health
- Radiology

In each domain participants tested the ability of their systems to interoperate and exchange information in support of typical clinical scenarios. IHE profiles have provided the foundation for national EHR deployment standards and health information exchanges in the US, Canada and around the world.

The Connect-a-thon is mandatory preparation for upcoming Interoperability Showcase events, including the [Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society \(HIMSS\) 2010 Interoperability Showcase](#) on March 1-4 in Atlanta, Ga. during HIMSS10. With 73 participating vendors and organizations, the [HIMSS 2010 Interoperability Showcase](#) illustrates how interoperability drives improvements in the quality, safety and efficiency of care.

We Need Your Help in the Interoperability Showcase!

This is the fourth year that IHE and HIMSS have generously offered the EHR Association its own kiosk in the Interoperability Showcase. This gives us the opportunity to tout our [Interoperability Roadmap](#) (now in its third version, and aligned with IHE's objectives as well as emerging national standards), as well as our ["Value of Electronic Health Records"](#) compilation of case studies that highlight real benefits achieved by your customers with your EHR solutions. ***We know how busy you are during the HIMSS Annual Conference but we encourage you to volunteer to staff the kiosk for as much time as you can spare during exhibit hours.*** The traffic through the Showcase has increased dramatically year over year, so it's a great opportunity to get visibility for your company as an EHR Association member and supporter of interoperability standards. **Contact Amenia Bussell with your availability at abussell@himss.org.**

HIMSS10 – March 1-4, Atlanta

With more than half of Association member firms exhibiting at HIMSS10, this is a busy time for many of you. There will Executive Committee, Workgroup and all-member meetings on Saturday, February 27 (location to be announced):

12:00-1:30	Executive Committee
1:45-2:45	Executive Committee and Workgroup Chairs
3:00-5:00	All-member meeting
5:30-6:30	Reception
6:30-8:30	Dinner

Details on location and guest speakers will be sent out shortly, along with other meetings of interest to our members. If you have any questions, contact Amenia Bussell at abussell@himss.org.

EHR Association Workgroups

Some brief workgroup updates:

Government Initiatives Workgroup:

- This workgroup is busy managing the process to get comments from member representatives on the NPRM and IFR along with the Certification Workgroup and the Standards and Interoperability Workgroup (see above).

Certification Workgroup:

- CCHIT has updated the 2011 certification requirements to align with the proposed criteria in the IFR. Vendors who have achieved 2011 certification will not be assessed fees for incremental review and certification based on these new criteria.

Standards & Interoperability Workgroup:

- The Standards and Interoperability Committee hosted two sessions by two infrastructure vendors (CISCO and Forecare) that are rolling out products in support of IHE XDS based infrastructures, furthering the support of low cost solutions. The slides from the December sessions are on our internal website: <http://himss.ehrvendorassoc.webexone.com/r.asp?a=5&id=316963> and <http://himss.ehrvendorassoc.webexone.com/r.asp?a=5&id=312427>

Much of the Association's success is based on the great work of volunteers who collaborate as part of workgroups. We encourage participation in their regular conference calls. Remember, the more you get involved, the more your organization and your customers will get out of the EHR Association. Contact Amenia Bussell at abussell@himss.org and she'll add you to the list for workgroup call notices and dial-in information.

- **Government Initiatives – Mickey McGlynn, Chair (Siemens) and Charlie Jarvis, Vice-Chair (NextGen)** – Regular calls on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 2pm/ ET.

- **Standards and Interoperability – Charles Parisot, Chair (GE)** – Monthly calls on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:30pm/ET.
- **Certification Workgroup – Rick Reeves, Chair (CPSI)** – Calls are scheduled when new certification criteria require public comment.
- **Acceleration Workgroup – Charlene Underwood, Chair (Siemens) and Jacob Reider, MD, Vice-Chair (Allscripts)** – Conference calls are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 1:00pm/ET.
- **Membership Workgroup – Justin Barnes, Chair (Greenway) and Barbara Hobbs, Vice-Chair (Meditech)** – Calls are held when there are new member applications to be reviewed.
- **Communications Workgroup – Mike Nolte (GE Healthcare) and Maria Rudolph (eMDs), Co-Chairs** – Calls for this workgroup are on the third Tuesday of the month at 11:00am/ET.
- **Quality/CDS Special Interest Group – Jacob Reider (Allscripts), Chair and Keith Boone (GE), Co-Chair** – The Quality/CDS SIG holds its monthly call on the third Friday at 1:00pm/ET.

All-Member Calls are held monthly on the second Tuesday at 12:30pm ET. Important information is shared with the membership by Association leaders, and votes are taken on positions and operational issues. You will be notified at least three days in advance of the call, with supporting materials as necessary. These calls are of particular importance since your organization, through its membership in the EHR Association, will be represented by Association positions and statements. Be sure your company is present to vote and be heard.

Useful Information

Amenia Bussell, Manager EHR Association, HIMSS can be reached at (734) 477-0864 (phone) or abussell@himss.org

Details on certification requirements and a list of certified EHRs can be found at www.cchit.org.

Important dates and details on the HIMSS10 Interoperability Showcase are available at www.interoperabilityshowcase.org.

Information on HIMSS10 in Atlanta (March 1-4) can be found at <http://www.himssconference.org>

Ideas for public relations outreach and other opportunities to broaden awareness of the EHR Association should be sent to Liddy West at ewest123@msn.com.

New and Improved: The EHR Association Web Site

Look for a fresh, new look for our web site (www.himsssehra.org) later this month. The Communications Workgroup has been working with the HIMSS Web Services team to make the site more useful with a search capability, and to highlight members with a scroll box that will display company names. We're also working to make "The Value of EHRs" document more dynamic so that visitors to that page can click through on the name of the site and get to the full case study. Thanks to HIMSS for their good work on this project. And let us know if you have any feedback!

*See You in Atlanta
March 1-4 at HIMSS10!*