Welcome to HIMSS’ Health IT Policy Update, bringing you the latest news on legislative and regulatory activities related to health IT from HIMSS’ Government Relations office. We welcome your feedback, and if you’re reading this complimentary newsletter online or receiving it as a forward, please subscribe!

National Health IT Week

HIMSS Policy Summit Announces Speaker Line-up
National Coordinator for Health IT Dr. Farzad Mostashari will give the opening keynote at HIMSS’ 11th Annual Policy Summit. Other highlights include a panel from the HIMSS Federal Health Community, a discussion of Nursing Informatics, and insider advice on making the most of meetings with your Congressional representatives. Have you registered for the Policy Summit yet? Completing your registration as far in advance as possible greatly assists HIMSS staff as we arrange Congressional appointments for each Policy Summit attendee. Click the link above for more details on speakers, to learn this year’s Congressional “Asks” that HIMSS Advocates will bring to Capitol Hill, and to register.

NCSL Passes Resolution
At its annual Legislative Summit in Chicago this month, the National Conference of State Legislatures passed a resolution expressing support for National Health IT Week. “National Health IT Week presents an opportunity for NCSL and other stakeholders to recognize the value of information technology and management systems to transform the United States healthcare system, improving the quality and cost-efficiency for all Americans.” Please click the link above to read the full text of the resolution.

Registration Open for ONC Consumer Health IT Summit During National Health IT Week
The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) has opened registration for the 2012 Consumer Health IT Summit at HHS headquarters in Washington DC on September 10th, the first day of National Health IT Week. Attendees will hear about “new public and private sector efforts to make health information more easily available to consumers and to engage them in using their data to improve their care and well being.” Scheduled speakers include Todd Park, U.S. Chief Technology Officer and Farzad Mostashari, National Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. Early registration is advised, as space is limited. Click the link above for more.
Join Nursing Informatics on the Hill
HIMSS, in collaboration with the American Nurses Association and the 30 members of the Alliance for Nursing Informatics, want your voice! Join us on “The Hill” as share our stories of how nurses and nursing informatics are advancing better care, affordable care and healthier communities. Register for Nursing Informatics on the Hill (complimentary) at the headline link above. This event will take place Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012, at 10 a.m. (ET) on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. For more information, contact Jennifer Roniger.

HIMSS Launches Inaugural National Health IT Week ‘Blog Carnival’
HIMSS announced the launch of its inaugural blog carnival in support of National Health IT Week. HIMSS invites members of the health IT blog community to pen new, original posts that share their opinions on the impact health IT will have in 2013. Blog posts from contributors will be selected and included on the HIMSS Blog on Sept. 10, 2012 in line with the start of National Health IT Week. For those interested in participating, please click the link in the headline above to learn more.

Congressional Affairs

The Ryan Medicare Plan and Implications for Healthcare
On Saturday, presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney announced his choice of U.S. Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI) as his running mate. As Chairman of the House Budget Committee, Ryan has revealed his perspective on healthcare in his sponsorship of a budget proposal which includes expansive Medicare reform. His plan, which was adopted by the House (but not the Senate) in March 2012, would “provide Medicare seniors with a government stipend to purchase their own health insurance from a Medicare-managed care plan, or through Medicare traditional fee-for-service.” Click the link above to read more.

A Different Way of Thinking about Health Information
Earlier this week, the Alliance for Health Reform hosted a briefing in the Senate entitled “A Different Way of Thinking about Health Information.” There was a strong consensus among the panelists that mobile technology—which is becoming increasingly prevalent in our everyday lives—can be effectively harnessed to engage patients in their own healthcare. Click the link above to learn more.

Federal Affairs

Health IT Standards Meets
The Health IT Standards Committee held its August meeting this past Wednesday. During the meeting, the Committee received final recommendations from the NwHIN Power Team regarding final assessment criteria for the maturity of standards and specifications. The recommendations were approved by the full committee, and will be transmitted to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC). For more on the meeting and to access HIMSS’ full summary of the meeting, including links to presentations, click the link above.

FCC Issues Progress Report on Rural Healthcare Pilot Program
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a progress report on its pilot program to deploy broadband access to rural areas, for the purpose of improving access to healthcare. The staff report, “Evaluation of Rural Health Care Pilot Program,” provides an evaluation of the program’s

Baylor Medical Center, Irving TX
September 28, 2012

HIMSS Virtual Briefing: Government Health IT
October 17, 2012

OSEHRA Open Source EHR Summit and Workshop
Washington, DC area
October 17-18, 2012

2012 Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Summit
Sponsored by HHS, NIH, OMH
Washington, DC area
October 31 – November 3, 2012

2012 mHealth Summit
Early registration ends August 31st
Washington, DC area
December 3-5, 2012

IOM Workshop: Core Metrics for Better Care, Lower Costs, and Better Health
Irvine, CA
December 5-6, 2012

The Privacy & Security Forum
Presented by Healthcare IT News and HIMSS
Boston, MA
December 12-13, 2012

2013 Connectathon
January 28 - February 2, 2013

HIMSS13 Conference & Exhibition
New Orleans
March 3-7, 2013

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successes and challenges, including the use of funding, the speed of deployment, and the impact the project has had on project sites. The pilot program has shown that investment in broadband networks has a positive impact on care quality and cost reduction. It has also shown that consortium applications - joining many providers and provider networks to a larger network to share cost and administrative burdens - are more efficient. Please click the link to learn more, and to access the FCC report.

**Released and Anticipated Regulations for 2012**
Several Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRMs) have been released and more are anticipated to come from CMS and ONC in coming months. This chart is regularly updated to outline the regulations, the agency from which they will be administered, and the date by which public comments are due to the government. Also included is the anticipated timeframe for release of final rules. For more information, please send a message to policy@himss.org.

**State Affairs**

**State Legislators Consider Health IT Opportunities**
“With another 32 million people estimated to gain health insurance coverage by 2014, states are looking for innovative ways to expand services for the underserved and rural areas,” writes HIMSS Senior Director of State Affairs, Tom Keefe, in his HIMSS Blog post about his week at the 2012 Legislative Summit of the National Conference of State Legislatures. “The session, ‘Revolutionizing Care Through Telehealth Technologies,’ highlighted how telehealth or telemedicine is emerging as a critical piece in that puzzle. It was interesting to hear how Illinois and Wyoming are working to expand these services.” Click the link above to read more about Tom’s experiences at the NCSL event.

**Indiana Rolls Out Immunization Patient Portal**
A new Health IT Buzz Blog from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT focuses on the statewide rollout in Indiana of MyVaxIndiana, “a web-based program that allows individuals to access their immunization records...MyVaxIndiana is designed to empower individuals to actively engage in their own health and health care by giving them access to their immunization records in a simple and secure manner. ...Once a vaccine record is accessed, the individual is able to print or fax an official record, download the record as a PDF file, or download the data into an electronic personal health record... Currently, few state immunization registries provide consumers access to their records. ONC is determined to grow this number with the introduction of the Individual Access to Immunization Registries Initiative.”

**HIMSS News**

**Top CIOs to Speak at Privacy & Security Forum**
Healthcare IT News and HIMSS Media have joined forces to create The Privacy & Security Forum, to be held Dec. 12-13, in Boston. The forum will address issues such as data breaches, mobile device security and HIPAA privacy and security compliance. Session topics include HIMSS Annual Security Survey results; The Healthcare IT News Interviews; best practices for securing mobile devices; identifying risks and reducing exposure; Cloud computing; HIEs; and risk assessment. For more information click the link in the headline above or email info@healthprivacyforum.com.

**Call for Proposals—HIT X.0: Beyond the Edge**
HIMSS invites you to submit a proposal to present at this year’s HIT X.0: Beyond the Edge program, March 5-6, in New Orleans, co-located at HIMSS13
Annual Conference & Exhibition. The Call for Proposals is opens today and will run through Friday, Aug. 31. All proposals must be submitted to the link in the headline above. Late proposals will not be accepted and all proposals should feature emerging technologies with the following: Tangible evidence of the impact innovative technologies/ideas currently have; practical solutions that have been applied in the healthcare setting, preferably with measurable results; and “wow” factor that could potentially transform healthcare delivery.

**Selecting a Mobile App: Evaluating the Usability of Medical Applications**

This document has been prepared as an aid to the healthcare provider or IT staff member who is engaged in the selection of mobile apps for a hospital organization or private practice. This guide outlines some basic steps to include in a mobile app selection process, to assist practices evaluate mobile app usability, based on current usability recommendations and best practices. Click the link above to access.