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

White House Issues Presidential Message Marking National Health IT Week
Declaring, “A thirst for discovery and innovation has been central to our national character since our earliest days,” the White House this week released a Presidential Message highlighting the “critical role information technology (IT) plays in health care delivery across our Nation.” The Presidential Message marks the second year in a row a presidential communication has recognized National Health IT Week, and continues a long-standing effort to highlight the value of health IT.”

Mostashari Keynotes HIMSS Policy Summit
On September 12, Dr. Farzad Mostashari offered the Keynote that officially began the 11th Annual HIMSS Policy Summit. Among the remarks made by Dr. Mostashari, he pointed out that there are no “set” appropriations for the EHR incentive program, meaning that the money will not stop due to a specific cap that’s been met. “Whoever qualifies, gets paid,” he said. Policy Summit attendees also heard from senior officials on federal agencies’ health IT-related activities. Brad Fitch of the Congressional Management Foundation provided attendees with tips on making the most impact when meeting with their members of Congress, and the event closed with a discussion of issues in the 2012 presidential campaign with former U.S. Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra, and HIMSS Latino Community co-chair and MSNBC commentator, Danny Vargas of VARcom Solutions. HIMSS is grateful to the more than 230 who attended this week’s Policy Summit, and to this year’s supporters: MITRE’s Center for Transforming Health, Momentum Inc., and Greenway. Click the link above to learn more!

HIMSS Presents 2012 Policy Leadership Awards to HRSA’s Wakefield and Iowa’s Upmeyer
Each year, during National Health IT Week, HIMSS honors policy leaders who have helped improve healthcare delivery with the best use of health IT.

Public Policy Event Calendar

Health IT Policy Committee Meetings
Health IT Standards Committee Meetings
HIMSS Chapter Events
HIMSS Virtual Briefing: Meaningful Use Stage 2 Standards and Certification Criteria: An Overview
September 18, 2012
HIMSS Virtual Briefing: Clinical Quality Measures: A Meaningful Use Stage 2 Update
September 25, 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, NIMHD, NIH, OMH
Washington, DC area
October 31 - November 3, 2012
2012 mHealth Summit
Early registration rates end 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
information technology and management systems. This year, two HIMSS Policy Leader Award winners were honored during the National Health IT Week 2012 Networking Reception and Awards ceremony on September 12th: Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and The Honorable Linda Upmeyer, Majority Leader in the Iowa House of Representatives. Also recognized at the reception, which was sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, were recipients of the Modern Healthcare/HIMSS CEO IT Achievement Award, and the Fourth Annual CHIME State Advocacy Award for CIO Leadership.

Nurses Join Together on Capitol Hill for National Health IT Week
For the second consecutive year, HIMSS sponsored Nursing Informatics at the Hill, along with the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI), on September 12. Members of the 112th Congressional Nursing Caucus joined members of HIMSS Nursing Community and other stakeholders at the Capitol to discuss how nurses can influence policy to create healthier communities with nursing informatics and health IT. The event sponsor, Representative Diane Black (R-TN) joined the group to discuss her personal insights on how she feels our health care system can be improved through technology. Over 50 attendees gathered at the event, and several shared personal stories about how technology directly affected the care they gave a patient for a better outcome. Read more by clicking the link above.

More Than 260 Partners Recognize National Health IT Week
A record number of organizations have signed on Partners of National Health IT Week 2012, September 10-14, 2012. Representatives from many of the more than 260 groups were among those attending the National Health IT Week Networking and Awards Reception on Wednesday, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente.

HIMSS Federal Health Community Hosts Site Visit
On Monday of National Health IT Week, the HIMSS Federal Health Community hosted a site visit at GW Medical Faculty Associates’ (MFA) ambulatory facility in DC. During the site visit, participants from federal agencies and the US Congress had the opportunity to tour the facility and see demonstrations of various health IT applications. Click the link to learn more.

Congressional Affairs

Sen. Kerry Introduces MITECH Act
Senator John Kerry (D-MA) yesterday introduced the the “Medicaid Information Technology to Enhance Community Health (MITECH) Act” (S. 3539). In his statement for the Congressional Record, Sen. Kerry said that he is introducing this bill because “many safety net providers and clinics have not been able to benefit from the Medicaid EHR incentives” because they do not meet the 30 percent Medicaid patient threshold to qualify for incentives, even though their patients are predominantly low-income. Click the link above to read the rest of Sen. Kerry’s statement.

Take Action!
More than 230 of your colleagues came to Washington, D.C. this week for the 11th Annual HIMSS Policy Summit, where they shared a critical message with their members of Congress - the vital importance of health information technology to transform healthcare in America. You can be part of this essential and timely effort by participating in HIMSS’ Virtual Outreach initiative to Congress. Let your elected representatives know the importance of health IT in the transformation of the delivery, quality, access, and cost control of healthcare. Participate and be the conduit for change by sending an editable, pre-drafted letter to your Representative and Senators, and

Renew Your HIMSS Membership?
Ensure the continuation of your HIMSS member benefits, login to the Member Center to renew your membership today. If you need a paper invoice, request one via e-mail to the Member Services department. You can also renew by phone at 312-664-446 (option 8, then 2).
showing them that health IT is an issue that you care about and deserves the attention of Congress. Click the link above to make an impact!

Federal Affairs

ONC Hosts Consumer Engagement Summit
On Monday, September 10th, the federal government recognized National Health IT Week and marked the one year anniversary of the launch of the Consumer Engagement Campaign with an event in Washington, DC. Speakers highlighted federal initiatives to engage the patients in their healthcare decisions. The plan, which focuses on the 3 A’s “Access, Action, and Attitude,” is designed to address challenges, such as that 66 percent of hospitals achieving Meaningful Use Stage 1 in 2011 indicated that they did not receive a single inquiry from a patient requesting a copy of their medical information. Meaningful Use Stage 2 is intended to engage patients and spur increases in patients receiving eCopies of their health records through the Blue Button. Click the link for more.

ONC Launches Draft Test Procedures
On September 7, ONC launched its first “wave” of draft Test Procedures that will be used for testing and certifying EHR technology under the ONC HIT Certification Program. Developed in collaboration with NIST, a two-week comment period will follow each wave throughout September and October 2012. The draft Test Procedures and applicable test data files are posted on the ONC website and made available for public review and comment. Click the link above for more.

AHRQ Comment Period for Common Format—Readmissions Version 0.1 Beta Closes September 20
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the interagency Federal Patient Safety Working Group (PSWG) developed Common Format—Readmissions Version 0.1 Beta, which is available for public comment until September 20, 2012. Using this standardized method of review, hospitals can identify factors associated with unnecessary readmissions. AHRQ has contracted with the National Quality Forum (NQF) to assist with gathering and analyzing feedback.

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

Senate Richard T. Moore Passes Resolution Congratulating New England HIMSS Chapter
HIMSS Chapters across the United States are wrapping up their celebrations for National Health IT Week (September 10-14, 2012). In Massachusetts, the highlight for the HIMSS New England Chapter came when State Senator Richard T. Moore issued a resolution focusing on National Health IT Week and the impact health IT has already made within the state, and additionally honoring the New England Chapter for its participation. Click the link above for more.

NASCIO Supports National Health IT Week
The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) has
expressed its support for National Health IT Week 2012. “Our participation in National Health IT Week highlights our organization’s commitment to ensure health information technology is integrated, interactive, interoperable, and intelligent to provide the best patient outcomes,” said Doug Robinson, NASCIO executive director. “By working together we can leverage the technology for the betterment of our healthcare system.” Click the link above to access NASCIO’s full statement.

HIMSS News

**HIMSS Policy Volunteer Awarded Spirit of HIMSS**
Established in 2003, the Spirit of HIMSS award recognizes members who exemplify the mission of HIMSS through their recent volunteer efforts within the society. The latest winner is Fred Hannett, MPA, Principal at The Capital Alliance. Click the link above to read about Fred’s many contributions to HIMSS’ public policy activities!

**Hawai‘i Pacific Health Selected as 2012 Enterprise HIMSS Davies Award Winner**
At the National Health IT Week Capitol Hill press conference, Willa Fields, Chair of the HIMSS Board of Directors, announced that Hawai‘i Pacific Health, headquartered in Honolulu, is the winner of the 2012 Enterprise HIMSS Davies Award of Excellence.

**Bill Clinton Joins All-Star HIMSS13 Keynotes**
Former President Bill Clinton will take the podium on Wednesday, March 6, at HIMSS13, part of an all-star lineup of keynote speakers. “The timing is right to have President Clinton join us, because the election will be over, and its effects will just be taking hold in Washington and across the nation. With a continued bipartisan focus on the best use of health IT to improve healthcare delivery, attendees at the conference will want to hear what President Clinton has to say,” says H. Stephen Lieber, CAE, HIMSS President and CEO. Other keynote speakers include:

- **Warner Thomas**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ochsner Health System will speak **Monday, March 4**.
- **Eric J. Topol, MD**, West Endowed Chair of Innovative Medicine, Scripps Health; Cardiologist; Geneticist will speak **Tuesday, March 5**.
- Democratic strategist **James Carville** and former Bush administration advisor **Karl Rove** debate politics, economics, healthcare reform and other key initiatives affecting the country on **Thursday, March 7**.

HIMSS13 returns to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans from March 3-7, 2013. Registration is open for HIMSS13. Attendees can book their hotel reservation now; exhibitor housing will be available for booking in mid-September. Click the link in the headline above to learn more about our keynote speakers.

**HIMSS HIELights Newsletter Tackles Expanded Focus**
The HIMSS HIELights eNewsletter, which focused on health information exchanges across the nation, is getting a new look and expanded focus next month as the HIMSS Information Xchange eNewsletter, with a focus on interoperability and standards leading to information exchange. Our mission is that Information Xchange will present each month the practical solutions and information you need to successfully navigate a healthcare environment poised for titanic changes in the years ahead.

Information Xchange is the latest iteration of our eNewsletter HIELights, which itself morphed from an earlier HIMSS eNewsletter—The RHIO Connection. The breadth and scope of these publications differed in many ways (an excellent retrospective can be found here), but the thread that
binds them remains: information exchange is a critical component to achieving our collective vision of American healthcare in the 21st century. We thought it necessary that this publication reflect the tectonic shifts affecting industry by broadening the scope of HiELights to include interoperability and standards leading to information exchange. Look for the first issue of Information Xchange in your inbox on Thursday, Oct. 4. If you want to serve on our editorial board, submit an article or opinion column, or lend your expertise to the trends and topics we should be following, please send your contact information and CV to Mary-Ellen Johnson, Senior Manager, Interoperability & Standards.

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