



A New Perspective on Global Healthcare

HIMSS, the Healthcare Information and Management System Society, where our vision is to realize the full health potential of every human, everywhere. A mission-driven nonprofit, HIMSS serves the global health ecosystem in our shared goal of leveraging information, data, and technology for health equity and quality healthcare.

A trusted society and advocate for digital health transformation, HIMSS spans more than sixty years of growth and collaboration with world leaders, governments, healthcare providers, members, and other stakeholders. Our work informs innovation, public policy, workforce development, and data analytics -- all geared toward digital healthcare delivery for every global citizen.

HIMSS delivers key insights, education, and engaging events to healthcare stakeholders to ensure they have the right information at the right time to make sound strategic, clinical, operational, and financial decisions.

HIMSS shares a common vision with its global membership of about 120,000 individuals, 430 provider organizations, 500 nonprofit partners, and 550 health services organizations. We address the various challenges of modern healthcare delivery, study the impact of social determinants on population health, and the increased consumer demand on healthcare systems constrained by lack of resources. We address all this with a special focus on equity, cost efficiency, quality, workforce, and patient experience.

Convening, Networking, and Solutions Development

HIMSS and its members think globally and act locally to identify common healthcare delivery challenges and opportunities. Together, we find practical solutions to policy, people, and technology issues.

Our thought leaders, and individual and provider members reach millions of people worldwide via media platforms owned by HIMSS and social media. We engage with stakeholders to develop and share scalable solutions to problems so that health ecosystems worldwide can offer safe, equitable and efficient care to the populations they serve.



Each year, we host the HIMSS Global Conference & Exhibition in North America, Europe and Asia Pacific, and Executive Summit in the Middle East, convening people from more than 80 countries. We also host special events such as the Future of Healthcare Innovation and Chief Information Officer Summit to address issues-driven topics of workforce, analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence, structural security cybersecurity, and healthcare systems reform.

Solutions for Global Challenges: Digital Transformation

The HIMSS digital transformation analytics and research services provide evidence-based insights, metrics, and global benchmarks. Our research measures benefits and return on investment for digital healthcare, and our program has been adopted by health systems and governments around the world. Their strategic investments have improved care delivery outcomes for 850 million lives in 60 countries.

Our Digital Health Transformation program employs a series of globally relevant digital healthcare maturity assessment tools, expert advisory services and digital health research. The program measures outcomes of technology investment, delivery system and workforce capabilities between current and aspirational standards. Digital, person-centric healthcare models, when aligned with the goals of health systems and governments, inform the strategic plan for investment in digital transformation. The end goal is a roadmap to quantify the benefits to a better healthcare delivery outcome for providers and populations.

Our digital health transformation assessments and advisory services are available for a broad range of care delivery system environments and sub-systems. They are:

DIGITAL HEALTH INDICATOR (DHI)

Measures the capacity of a health system to deliver digital healthcare services by identifying key digital assets and opportunities to advance digital transformation. A digital health ecosystem connects clinicians and provider teams with patients, allowing them to manage their health and wellness using digital tools in a secure and private environment whenever and wherever care is needed. DHI also measures the capacity for digital clinical and operational care processes that are outcomes-driven, informed by data and real-world evidence to achieve exceptional performance in quality, safety, equity and sustainability. It increases workforce, and patient experience.

GLOBAL INTEROPERABILITY INDICATOR

This unique tool was designed to measure progress toward interoperability at the national or jurisdictional level. It informs strategy to advance Interoperability across a country's healthcare system, identifying strengths and weaknesses so that a nation's leaders can advance organizational and structural dimensions toward interoperability.

ADOPTION MODEL FOR ANALYTICS MATURITY (AMAM)

Measures the analytics capabilities and infrastructure to mobilize, capture, and exchange data. This is then analyzed to inform strategic, clinical, operational, and financial decisions. AMAM maturity transforms organizations to data-driven cultures that use advanced analytics for proactive and predictive health services. It is focused on keeping people healthy, reducing risk, and improving quality, safety and efficiency of care delivery.

CLINICALLY INTEGRATED SUPPLY OUTCOMES MODEL (CISOM)

Assesses a health organization's progress toward supply chain resilience to tolerate unexpected disruptions or surge in demand for care. This model examines automation in the care delivery environment, tracking and tracing processes and products used in providing care. It links patient outcomes to supply chain to measure value, impact and outcomes for provider organizations and patient populations.

DIGITAL IMAGING ADOPTION MODEL (DIAM)

Examines the progress toward digital diagnostic imaging process. The model provides a strategic roadmap for guiding the change to strengthen quality, safety, efficiency, and productivity for diagnostic imaging providers in acute and community settings.

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD ADOPTION MODEL (EMRAM)

Measures the outcomes of Electronic Medical Record (EMR) investment and adoption, and guides health organizations in their digital strategy toward EMR to achieve health system goals. It is designed to engage meaningfully with patients to improve their health and wellness; and to strengthen resilience and enable continuity of care during potential disruption due to all threats including cybersecurity threats. Achieving high EMRAM maturity expedites the digital transformation of healthcare delivery, care quality, safety, equity, sustainability and performance outcomes.

INFRASTRUCTURE ADOPTION MODEL (INFRAM)

Provides a current-state analysis and informs a future state roadmap for technology infrastructure

required for organizational goals to meet international benchmarks and standards for interoperability, manage and mitigate cybersecurity risks and enable person-centered care delivery models. These delivery models include the technology infrastructure to meet patient and provider expectations for wireless and network connectivity.

COMMUNITY CARE OUTCOMES MATURITY MODEL (C-COMM)

Advances digital care delivery in non-hospital settings in communities to advance digital transformation in health systems across the life course. This model assesses the digital processes, analytics, and outcomes that every organization needs to advance their performance. It strengthens person-enabled care delivery and builds capacity to deliver care across the healthcare continuum.

CONTINUITY OF CARE MATURITY MODEL (CCMM)

Assesses and guides continuity of inter and intra healthcare system information and communication. CCMM assesses the continuity of clinical information to inform care across the continuum of delivery environments.

Interoperability

Interoperability is a key focus area at HIMSS as we endeavor to place healthcare systems on a pathway to broader and more meaningful health data exchange, and a greater empowerment of patients for more control over their data. A crucial lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic was that a greater level of interoperability and exchange had a positive impact on patient outcomes. Expanded interoperability will provide enormous benefits to patients and our broader healthcare system.

HIMSS encourages governments to use all policy levers to foster a two-way individual access to information, and present to all healthcare ecosystems the value proposition of the collection and exchange of data. Such a dialogue would better promote the premise that patients have the right to demand control over their health information and that health and wellness outcomes improve as data moves effortlessly across the continuum of care.

Our team members have been in contact with the Saudi government to offer our assistance to the G20 Riyadh Declaration recommendation No. 3, to “Implement a standard global minimum dataset for public health data reporting, and a data governance structure tailored to communicable diseases.” We are prepared to leverage our expertise in standards harmonization that we developed to support this critical endeavor. HIMSS is a founder of Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) Initiative.



Finally, as co-founder with Health Level 7 (HL7) and IHE International of the [Global Consortium for eHealth Interoperability](#), we are committed to pushing data exchange forward worldwide. This would equip national governmental agencies, health systems and their stakeholders to leverage emerging interoperability standards and the latest implementation guidance toward better, lower-cost health outcomes. Interoperability would decrease barriers and accelerate the rapid, coordinated, efficient deployment of next-generation, application programming interface (API)-based standards.

Unique in the healthcare industry, the Consortium convenes stakeholders around the world to share validated, scalable interoperability best practices at the point of care. The Consortium:

1. Supports the implementation of safe, usable, and effective health data standards
2. Accelerates the development and adoption of secure and open standards-based APIs
3. Defines an on-ramp for exchange via APIs
4. Facilitates the establishment of interoperability communities around the world

Connected Health

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic when in-person care was not a safe option, government regulators provided a lifeline to patients and providers by enabling a greater use of telehealth and connected health technologies. This moves expanded access to care and flattened the infection curve. Healthcare providers made a significant good-faith investment in telehealth tools as a part of their comprehensive response to the pandemic. These innovative tools helped ensure patients continued to receive necessary care in a safe and effective manner, while avoiding unnecessary exposure for our frontline providers, caregivers and health systems.

In the last several years, our community has developed clear evidence that connected health technologies offer equal healthcare quality to in-person care, and a greater value and convenience, which leads to improved health outcomes for patients. Telehealth also advances health equity by removing many barriers to care created by in-person visits and expands access to many underserved communities and individuals in ways never before envisioned.

Our data indicates a substantial willingness among patients, and even a preference, for substituting telehealth for in-person care when clinically appropriate, and showed a desire to embrace it on a permanent basis.

HIMSS calls on world governments to capitalize on technology-based services and remote physiologic monitoring, and immediately make the temporary policy changes during the pandemic into a permanent one. We also recommend that governments should prioritize funding and reinforce programs that support the infrastructure to expand broadband services to the underserved rural areas.

HIMSS Communities

HIMSS has developed a growing number of communities for individuals to connect, learn, and lead health information and technology initiatives with like-minded colleagues around the world. Members can experience peer-to-peer networking, problem solving, and idea exchange. HIMSS Communities are the key vehicle to localizing our global mission and vision. They encourage and drive participatory policymaking, based on high levels of digital literacy, social learning, and governance of collective knowledge. This enables adoption of innovative solutions to address common challenges in healthcare, and with that, improve patient outcomes and decrease disease burdens for entire populations.



Digital Health Advisory Group for Europe – DHAGE

The Digital Health Advisory Group for Europe (DHAGE) is a thought leadership platform for key decision-makers in Europe to identify synergies and nurture collaborations on digital health policies. HIMSS created the group in collaboration with the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. DHAGE has the scope to strengthen European cooperation and facilitate synergies between the work of the European Union, the World Health Organization, their Member States, HIMSS, and key stakeholders in European health and care. DHAGE brings its membership into a confidential environment that is conducive to lateral thinking and nurturing new ideas on how to transform European health and care with the better use of information and technology.

Other HIMSS communities that may be of interest:

D-A-CH Community	Future50 Community
Iberian Community	Nordic Community
Italian Community	Turkish Community
Dutch Community	Global Health Equity Community
Japanese Community	Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform (TIGER) Interprofessional Community
French Community	Telehealth Community EMEA
Latinx Community	

The Mission and Aims of DHAGE:

Contribute to the digital transformation in health and care in Europe:

- Provide a thought leadership platform for key decision-makers in Europe for identifying synergies and nurturing collaboration on digital health policies
- Lead to inspiring discussions among countries and international organisations that are developing solutions for digital environments
- Bring together senior-level representatives of ministries, international organisations and non-governmental stakeholders who shape roadmaps for digitisation of health and care in their countries and regions
- Generate ideas for strengthening European cooperation and facilitate synergies between the work of countries, the European Union, World Health Organization, OECD, HIMSS healthcare communities and other key stakeholders

HIMSS Supports global efforts to strengthen preparedness for future threats to public health by leveraging information and technology

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, addressing the pandemic through global policy efforts has become a top priority for all governments and healthcare organizations. The issues include mitigating further spread and the best way to deploy vaccine distribution, and to take lessons learnt to be better prepared for future health threats. In the pandemic's wake, many governments and the private sector have quickly implemented changes for healthcare organizations and granted flexibilities to providers to deliver care in novel and innovative ways. The healthcare sector should also think about the opportunities that these changes offer, and the ways they could be sustained past

the COVID-19 crisis. Some of the adjustments made will only be appropriate for treatment and research purposes during this crisis, but there are many options for leveraging pandemic-related care practices into future policy structures.

HIMSS and its members have worked to articulate actions governments and health systems can take to leverage information and technology to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We offer the following Call to Action and observations on international vaccine distribution.

Call to Action

HIMSS offered strategies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and future public health emergencies that can further transform our global healthcare system. We recommend that governments, businesses, elected officials and civic leaders recognize the critical role of health information and technology in a health crisis. All must work across government agencies, communities and businesses to prioritize actions that leverage sound health data, the tools of informatics and the innovative solutions outlined in our Global Policy Call to Action.

- 1.** GLOBAL POLICY STRATEGIC ACTION
Establish a Flexible and Adaptable Healthcare Environment
- 2.** GLOBAL POLICY STRATEGIC ACTION
Build a Foundation of Interoperable Platforms to Facilitate Broad-Based Data Exchange
- 3.** GLOBAL POLICY STRATEGIC ACTION
Ensure that Privacy Security and Cybersecurity Protocols Meet the Needs of Current or Pending Crises

- 4.** GLOBAL POLICY STRATEGIC ACTION
Enhance Global Disease Surveillance and Data Analytics Capacity
- 5.** GLOBAL POLICY STRATEGIC ACTION
Visualize Future Permanent Health System Change

International Vaccine Distribution

HIMSS recommends that governments maximize the role of health information and technology in tackling COVID-19, especially in accelerating vaccination distribution and administration. We advise that governments take the following steps:

- 6.** Capitalize on Health Information and Technology and Data Systems to Support a Robust, Globally Coordinated, Comprehensive COVID-19 Vaccination Plans

We encourage governments to define and adopt a national reporting specification and standard, to be met by localities and all health system stakeholders. An important component is to simplify reporting submissions, and use an approach where data is submitted once and shared broadly across all authorized stakeholders.
- 7.** Exercise Regulatory Flexibilities and Enforcement Discretion to Ease Burden

Governments should initiate flexibilities at regulatory and administrative levels to reduce burdens related to vaccination-related processes and create a robust preparedness program.
- 8.** Adopt an “All-Hands-on-Deck” Approach to Vaccine Distribution and Administration

Global organizations need to better leverage existing infrastructure in broader distribution challenges. This would ensure equity in the access to vaccines both between and within countries, especially for low and middle-income countries. National digital health systems must align in their collection and reporting of data, and in deploying global interoperability standards and connectivity across the ecosystem.

- 9.** Emphasize the Importance of Interoperability and Data Sharing in the Broader Vaccination Effort

Each nation must create policies that define a minimum data set and provide guidance on vaccination reporting requirements. This national policy framework needs to align with international frameworks for cross-border use.

- 10.** Generate Digital Vaccination Credentials for Individuals

Advance standards and exchange requirements to enable individuals to digitally verify their vaccination status; these standards must align with international initiatives spearheaded by the European Union and World Health Organization. To ensure health equity across populations, governments should make accommodations for individuals to receive a paper copy of a credential.