

# Improving Patient Care Through Meaningful Use of an Electronic Health Record



Program Director's Meeting  
January 19, 2011

# ARRA and HITECH

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is officially Public Law 111-5 and was signed on February 17, 2009 by President Barack Obama.
- ARRA provides many different stimulus opportunities including \$19.2 billion for health information technology.
- Title XIII of ARRA was given a subtitle: Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH). This section deals with many of the health information communication and technology provisions.

# Key Entities

- CMS - Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Administration of CMS EHR Financial Incentive Programs
- ONC – Office of National Coordinator  
Administration and oversight of HITECH programs

# HITECH Purpose

“The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act seeks to improve American health care delivery and patient care through an unprecedented investment in health information technology.”

# HITECH Programs

1. Beacon Community Program
2. State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program
3. Health Information Technology Extension Program
4. Strategic Health IT Advanced Research Projects (SHARP) Program
5. Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Professionals Program
6. Curriculum Development Centers Program
7. Program of Assistance for University-Based Training
8. Competency Examination for Individuals Completing Non-Degree Training Program

# Health Information Technology Extension Program

- The extension program consists of Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers (RECs) and a national Health Information Technology Research Center (HITRC).
- Regional Extension Centers will support and serve health care providers to help them quickly become adept and meaningful users of electronic health records (EHRs). RECs are designed to make sure that primary care clinicians get the help they need to use EHRs.
- The HITRC will gather information on effective practices and help the RECs work with one another and with relevant stakeholders to identify and share best practices in EHR adoption, meaningful use, and provider support.

# NIHB AI/AN National REC

- The NIHB AI/AN National REC is the **only national** Regional Extension Center.
- Its goal is to ensure that providers throughout the Indian Health System receive resources to support EHR adoption and use health information technology to achieve Meaningful Use of certified EHRs.
- Healthcare providers are encouraged to enroll with the AI/AN National REC now.
- The NIHB AI/AN National REC plans to work through several Area Health Boards (including CRIHB) to accomplish this goal.



# AI/AN National REC and CRIHB



California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) has been identified as the California representative.

California Area Office Indian Health Service and California Rural Indian Health Board are collaborating to support EHR adoption and meaningful use of health information technology to improve patient care.

This collaboration will work together to provide California health programs with services in:

- Vendor Selection
- Process Improvement
- Workflow Redesign
- Resources for RPMS Pharmacy and Lab set-up and configuration
- RPMS EHR end user training
- Educational resources to achieve Meaningful Use



# MU and IPC in California

- California is privileged to be among the first areas to receive an Meaningful Use-Improving Patient Care (MU-IPC) Consultant. The IHS Office of Information Technology has funded a fifteen month contract to support area MU-IPC efforts.
- Tim Campbell began in mid-November. He has six years of experience at a California tribal health program. He is a vital part of the California team working to support your efforts to improve patient care through meaningful use of an electronic health record.
- Tim's work includes contact with your health program staff to share information.

# CMS EHR Financial Incentive Programs

- The **Medicare** EHR Incentive Program will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and CAHs that demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology.
- The **Medicaid** EHR Incentive Program will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and CAHs as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology in their first year of participation and demonstrate meaningful use for up to five remaining participation years.

# EHR Certification

ONC is responsible for HITECH programs including EHR certification.

- A list of certified EHRs is available at <http://healthit.hhs.gov>
- IHS Office of Information technology expects to receive certification of the RPMS EHR in mid to late March 2011
- A certified version of the RPMS EHR must be loaded and corresponding patches loaded.

# EHR Incentive Registration

- California providers should register for the CMS Medicaid EHR Incentive program beginning February 1, 2011

<https://ehrincentives.cms.gov/hitech/login.action>

- Registration begins on the CMS website and continues on the California DHCS website

<http://www.medi-cal.ehr.ca.gov/>

# Health IT Workforce Development Program

- As the nation moves toward a more technologically advanced health care system, providers need highly skilled health IT experts to support them in the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records.
- This program has been funded to help address this growing demand for health IT experts. The goal is to train a new workforce of health IT professionals who will be ready to help providers implement electronic health records to improve health care quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness.
- Educational programs are available at the Community College and University level.

# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN CONSORTIA TO EDUCATE HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

Butte College	Oroville	CA
Cosumnes River College	Sacramento	CA
Cypress College	Cypress	CA
East LA College	Monterey Park	CA
Fresno City College	Fresno	CA
Los Rios Community College District	Sacramento	CA
Mission College	Santa Clara	CA
Orange Coast College	Costa Mesa	CA
San Diego Mesa College	San Diego	CA
Santa Barbara City College	Santa Barbara	CA
Santa Monica College	Santa Monica	CA

# Important Dates

December 2010	Registration for NIHB AI/AN National REC
February 1, 2011	Registration to begin for California Medicaid EHR Financial Incentive Program
May 2011	EHR incentive payments to begin

# References and Resources

- **HITECH Programs**

[http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit\\_hhs\\_gov\\_hitech\\_programs/1487](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_hitech_programs/1487)

- **CMS EHR Financial Incentive Programs**

<http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms>

- **Medi-Cal EHR Provider Incentive Portal (ePIP)**

<http://www.medi-cal.ehr.ca.gov/>

- **American Indian/Alaska Native National REC**

<http://nihb.org/rec/rec.php>

# Your California Contacts

## California Area Office

**Marilyn Freeman, RHIA**

Meaningful Use Coordinator  
916 930 1981 Extension 362

[Marilyn.Freeman@ihs.gov](mailto:Marilyn.Freeman@ihs.gov)

**Tim Campbell**

Area MU-IPC Consultant  
(707) 889-3009

[Tim.Campbell@ihs.gov](mailto:Tim.Campbell@ihs.gov)



## CRIHB

**Rosario Arreola Pro**

Health Systems Development Dir  
916 929 9761 Ext 1300

[rosario.arreolapro@crihb.net](mailto:rosario.arreolapro@crihb.net)



- Email your MU questions to [caomucoordinator@ihs.gov](mailto:caomucoordinator@ihs.gov)