

eHealth Initiative Releases Recommendations on the Role of Health IT in Care Coordination

Washington, D.C. March 9, 2012 –The eHealth Initiative (eHI) released several recommendations today outlining how health IT can and should be used to by providers to improve the coordination of care delivery. The new report, *Laying a Foundation for Care Coordination: The Role of Health IT*, describes the critical use of health IT in building a “people-centric” approach to health care. The key recommendations in the report are as follows:

- Health IT should allow providers and caregivers to capture, access and share real-time patient data;
- Health IT should support the creation, execution and updating of a care plan that can be shared across the continuum of care and with the patient and their families;
- Information should be presented in the most meaningful and actionable manner for both the provider and the patient; and
- Health IT should facilitate decision-making.

In support of these focus areas, the report reflects the experiences of the Office of the National Coordinator of Health IT (ONC) Beacon Community Programs, including the Greater Cincinnati, Western New York, Southeastern Michigan, Rhode Island, MyHealth Access, Colorado, and Inland Northwest Beacon Communities. In addition, the Montefiore Medical Center, JWCH Institute Inc., Oregon Health Plan and the Louisiana Coordinated System of Care are featured as successful examples of care coordination activities and initiatives.

“The passage of healthcare reform legislation has created a paradigm shift within the industry in moving towards a system that emphasizes shared accountability and continuity of quality patient-centered care,” states Jennifer Covich Bordenick, Chief Executive Officer of the eHealth Initiative. “It is imperative that healthcare IT contribute to better patient outcomes and higher quality care in a coordinated manner.”

“What makes this report unique is the amount of time and expertise used to develop these recommendations” Joseph Heyman, MD, Co-Chair of the Council that created this report, said. “eHealth Initiative gained the expertise and consensus of groups across the healthcare industry. It is our hope that the information in this report can be used to positively affect the industry.”

The report was developed through a multi-stakeholder, consensus process over the course of eight months. The Council was chaired by Heyman of the National Physician Advisory Board and Eva Powell, MSW, of the National Partnership for Women and Families. The report can be found at:

http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/store.html?page=shop.product_details&category_id=5&flypage=flypage.tpl&product_id=98

About eHealth Initiative and its Foundation

The eHealth Initiative and its Foundation are independent, non-profit affiliated organizations whose missions are the same: to drive improvements in the quality, safety, and efficiency of healthcare through information and information technology.

eHI engages multiple stakeholders, including clinicians, consumer and patient groups, employers, health plans, health IT suppliers, hospitals and other providers, laboratories, pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, pharmacies, public health, public sector agencies, and its growing coalition of more than 200 state, regional and community-based collaboratives, to reach agreement on and drive the adoption of common principles, policies and best practices for improving the quality, safety and effectiveness of healthcare through information and information technology. For more information, visit the [eHI Store](#).