AMCNO Health Information Technology List

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio receives myriad calls from members and staff regarding health information technology resources. Below is an overview of information that may assist our members and their staff when they are looking for additional information on the topic of HIT.

Resources for physicians

American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP) Center for HIT
The Center for Health Information Technology is the focal point of the AAFP’s technical expertise, advocacy, research and members services associated with medical office automation and computerization. The Center is dedicated to increasing the availability and use of low-cost, standards-based information technology among family physicians, nationally and internationally, through consultative, educational and outreach activities. Click [here](http://www.centerforhit.org/online/chit/home.html) for more information.

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
AHIMA is the association of health information management (HIM) professionals. AHIMA is dedicated to the effective management of personal health information needed to deliver quality healthcare to the public. Click [here](http://www.ahima.org/) for more information.

Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT)
CCHIT is the recognized certification authority for electronic health records and their networks, and an independent private-sector initiative. CCHIT acts as a mediator among the vendor community, government, physicians and large purchasers in an attempt to find and refine products that meet the needs of all the above. CCHIT’s certification criteria are redesigned each year, using input from physician testers, or jurors, in active practice, to the development process itself, discovering functions that may be lacking as products currently available are tested ‘in the field.’ Ms Ray then discussed how CCHIT develops criteria by using a broad, consensus-based process for more than 250 Ambulatory EHR products. They review:

- Functionality—What the product can do
- Interoperability—How the product can connect to other medical information sources
- Security/Reliability—How the product protects the information stored in it

Click [here](http://www.cchit.org/) for more information

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Council on Clinical Information (COCIT)
COCIT supports the need for AAF Fellows to understand how computerized information systems in the clinical setting can benefit the health of children and improve the effectiveness of care by pediatricians. COCIT also pursues educational, policy, and technological endeavors in pediatrics and clinical information technology. Click [here](http://www2.aap.org/informatics/COCIT.html) for more information.
**Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)**
HIMSS is the healthcare industry’s membership organization exclusively focused on providing leadership for the optimal use of healthcare information technology and management systems for the betterment of human health. HIMSS frames and leads healthcare public policy and industry practices through its advocacy, educational and professional development initiatives designed to promote information and management systems’ contributions to ensuring quality patient care. Click [here](http://www.himss.org/ASP/index.asp) for more information.

**KLAS**
KLAS focuses solely on healthcare technology. Since 2004, KLAS has been rating firms that deliver professional services to healthcare providers. KLAS reports on several services markets, a few of which include: implementation, planning and assessment, vendor selection, technical consulting, IT outsourcing and business process outsourcing. For Physician Practices - The ambulatory market contains hundreds of vendors offering solutions—making it difficult for providers to determine which ones best suit the needs of their practices. To help facilitate the decision making process, KLAS offers two research tools, free to providers: The Free KLAS Vendor Directory - Determine which vendors offer ambulatory solutions, search for vendor contact information, product descriptions, technical specifications and more. KLAS Ratings Online - To find out which Practice Management products, EMR solutions, and Imaging Technologies are currently rated in the KLAS database. Click [here](http://www.healthcomputing.com/) for more information.

**Resources from the US Federal Government**

**US Department of Health and Human Services/Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology**
This office provides leadership for the development and nationwide implementation of an interoperable health information technology infrastructure to improve the quality and efficiency of health care and the ability of consumers to manage their care and safety. Click [here](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov__home/1204) for more information.

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**
AHRQ funds health information technology research and development with money obtained through grants and contracts. This money is awarded to programs across the country to support and stimulate investment in health IT, especially in rural and underserved areas. AHRQ also created the National Resource Center for Health Information Technology, which provides technical assistance and shares knowledge and findings that have the potential to transform everyday clinical practice. Click [here](http://www.ahrq.gov/) for more information.

**American Health Information Community (AHIC)**
The AHIC is a federal advisory body, chartered to make recommendations to the Secretary of HHS on how to accelerate the adoption and development of health IT. The AHIC pursues breakthroughs that will produce tangible value to the health care consumer in the near term, while building toward long-term goals. Click [here](http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/community/background/) for more information.
Additional Resources

Bridges to Excellence
Bridges to Excellence (BTE) is a non-profit coalition-based organization created to encourage quality of care by recognizing and rewarding health care providers who demonstrate that they deliver safe, timely and effective patient-centered care. BTE works with large employers, health plans, physicians and a wide range of organizations that have a shared goal of improving quality and patient outcomes. BTE also works with the eHealth Initiative. BTE lends an analytical eye toward the supply and demand elements of the national healthcare arena, helping companies manage and encourage healthier living and disease management within, then rewarding providers of care for high-efficiency as defined by the particular performance program. BTE takes its cue from programs developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQF) and is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Initially generalized for the primary care setting, with programs entitled Physician Office Link, then Diabetes Care Link and Cardiac Care Link, BTE anticipates expansion in the next few years to include cardiac care, cancer care and more. Click here (http://www.hci3.org/) for more information.

eHealth Initiative
The eHealth Initiative and the Foundation for eHealth Initiative are independent, non-profit affiliated organizations whose missions are the same: to drive improvement in the quality, safety and efficiency of healthcare through information technology. eHealth initiative offers a free toolkit to assist physicians and other entities with health information exchange. Click here (http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/) for more information.

Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO)
EHealth Initiative is working the HPIO to help plan for a statement health information exchange concept in Ohio. The AMCNO participates in this endeavor as well – along with AMCNO involvement in the Northeastern Ohio Regional Health Information Organization (NEORHIO) concept. Some of the activities of HPIO include the initial assessment of the state of HIT in Ohio, including an overview of stakeholder views concerning opportunities and challenges related to HIT and HIE and a high-level inventory of existing projects. Click here (http://www.healthpolicyohio.org/) for more information.

The Leapfrog Group
The Leapfrog Group is an initiative driven by organizations that buy health care who are working to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety, quality and affordability of healthcare for Americans. It is a voluntary program aimed at mobilizing employer purchasing power to alert America’s health industry that big leaps in health care safety, quality and customer value will be recognized and rewarded. Click here (http://www.leapfroggroup.org/) for more information.
California Health Care Foundation
This group is an independent philanthropy committed to improving the way health care is delivered and financed in California, and helping consumers make informed health care and coverage decisions. CHCF also commissions research and analysis, publishes and disseminates information, convenes stakeholders, and funds development of programs and models aimed at improving the health care delivery and financing systems. Several of their reports have focused on the Cleveland market. Click here (http://www.chcf.org/) for more information.

The Markle Foundation/Connecting for Health
The effective use of IT in health care presents an opportunity to move critical medical information where and when it is needed in a secure and private manner. The Markle Foundation’s Health program is dedicated to ensuring that the primary beneficiary of this opportunity is the patient. Bringing electronic connectivity to health care has the potential to empower patients by allowing them to control their own medical records in a secure and private manner.

Connecting for Health is a public-private collaborative working to harness health information technology while protecting patient privacy and the security of personal health information. This public-private collaborative of more than 100 organizations is committed to enabling health professionals and patients to use information technology, so that they can achieve the best care possible in emergency and routine situations, as well as managing chronic illness. Click here for more information. Click here (http://www.markle.org/) for more information.