

Interoperability Physician Reporting Workgroup
North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR)

Identifying Critical External Partnerships
Physician Reporting Planning Document

January 22, 2013

Many cancer registries must build new external partnerships to prepare to implement physician cancer reporting via electronic health records (EHR) nationally. These new partnerships are critical in understanding the new and rapidly changing health information technology (HIT) environment. They also are critical for achieving a successful broad-scale, population-based, systems-level approach to cancer reporting planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

Critical External Partnerships

The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) External Partnerships Physician Reporting workgroup identified the following entities as critical to achieving successful physician EHR reporting for both overall reporting and Stage 2 Meaningful Use.

Links to the organizations to assist with background information and/or locating your state-level entities are provided wherever possible.

- **State and Local Medical Associations/Societies**—State and sometimes county-level chapters of the [American Medical Association](#) (AMA) and [American Osteopathic Association](#) are helpful. If you cannot locate county-level medical societies on your state medical association Web site, you can try the [Agape Center](#)  directory.

- **Physician Specialty Societies**—The AMA provides a directory of [physician specialty societies](#) that may include state and local chapters. Suggested societies for physician reporting include—
 - [American Academy of Dermatology](#)
 - [American Academy of Family Physicians](#)
 - [American Association of Clinical Urologists](#)
 - [American College of Gastroenterology](#)
 - [American College of Physician Executives](#)
 - [American College of Physicians](#)
 - [American College of Radiation Oncology](#)
 - [American College of Surgeons](#)
 - [American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#)
 - [American Gastroenterological Association](#)
 - [American Medical Group Association](#)
 - [American Society for Dermatologic Surgery](#)
 - [American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy](#)
 - [American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology](#)
 - [American Society of Clinical Oncology](#)

- [American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons](#)
 - [American Society of Hematology](#)
 - [American Urological Association](#)
 - [Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons](#)
 - [Society of Thoracic Surgeons](#)
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- **Physician Office Manager Association**—Branches of the [Association of Physician Office Managers](#) exist in seven states. These office managers tend to be the main point of contact for physician reporting.
 - **Oncology Nursing Managers**—Some states have local groups for oncology nursing managers or members of the [Oncology Nursing Society](#).
 - **Medical Group Management Association**—The Medical Group Management Association - American College of Medical Practice Executives is an association for professional administrators and leaders of medical group practices. The association maintains a [state affiliate directory](#) online.
 - **State Health Information Management Association**—Main points of contact for physician offices also tend to have professional training and background in health information management and belong to their local chapter of the American Health Information Management Association, which maintains a [directory of local chapters](#) online.
 - **HIMSS**—A variety of external partners involved in HIT often belong to a local chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society

(HIMSS). HIMSS is a not-for-profit organization focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of information technology and management systems to improve health care. HIMSS maintains [a directory of local chapters](#) online.

- **Regional Extension Centers**—A Regional Extension Center (REC) is an organization that has received funding under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act) to help health care providers choose and implement EHR technology. RECs are funded specifically to 1) provide training and support services to assist in EHR adoption, 2) offer information and guidance with EHR implementation (but not to carry out such an implementation), and 3) give other technical assistance as needed. A [directory of RECs](#) is provided on the [HealthIT.gov](#) Web site.

- **Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) and Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs)**—HIEs and RHIOs can move clinical information securely among different health care information systems, while maintaining the meaning of the information being exchanged. HIEs facilitate access to and retrieval of clinical data to provide safer and timelier, efficient, effective, and equitable patient-centered care. HIEs and RHIOs are of particular interest to cancer reporting due to their potential to decrease the number of physician office reporter sites that a registry must work with, while minimizing the reporting burden to public health agencies. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) supports the state HIE program. A [directory of HIE plans and contacts for each state](#) can be found on the ONC Web

site. Please note that not all HIEs are state-run; the type of HIE—public, private, non-profit, for-profit, or any combination thereof—can vary among and within states.

- **Immunization Registries**—Immunization registries are responsible for implementing physician reporting through EHRs, and have gained valuable experience through participation in Stage 1 Meaningful Use. State contacts are listed on [CDC's Immunizations Information Systems](#) Web site.
- **State HIT Coordinators**—State HIT coordinators lead and often serve as a single point of coordination for HIT initiatives. They may serve as a central contact for learning additional information about external partnerships, as well as past, present, and future state HIT initiatives. They are sometimes called an “Office of e-Health Coordination.” A [state directory of HIT coordinators](#) is available online.
- **State Medicaid Programs**—State Medicaid programs are responsible for implementing the EHR incentive programs for Meaningful Use, and may have information on which physicians are reporting through EHRs, as well as what EHR software they are using. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid provide a list of [state-level Medicaid EHR Incentive Program contacts](#).