



Pharmacy e-Health Information Technology Collaborative

Federal Advisory Committee HIT Policy Committee (HITPC) Meeting, January 10, 2012

Comments made by Shelly Spiro, Pharmacy e-HIT Collaborative Director

My name is Shelly Spiro; I'm the Director of the Pharmacy e-Health Information (HIT) Collaborative representing over 250,000 individuals as members of the majority of the national pharmacy associations and key pharmacy organizations involved in HIT. In Jodi Daniel's (Director, Office of Policy and Planning) presentation about HITPC planning ideas for 2012, she mentioned engaging non-eligible providers in the meaningful use (MU) of the electronic health record (EHR).

Pharmacists play an integral role in the inter-professional health care team in providing medication related patient care services outside and in conjunction with the prescription dispensing functions. The pharmacy industry recently provided a document "*The Roadmap for Pharmacy Health Information Technology Integration in U.S. Health Care*". This roadmap outlines the goals, objectives and strategies for pharmacists to adopt and implement the MU of the EHR. Recently, the US Public Health Service released a report delineating the mechanisms to optimize the role of pharmacists on the health care team. This report received support from the US Surgeon General; Dr. Regina Benjamin and provides the evidence policy makers need to support utilization of pharmacists as an essential part of the health care team.

Pharmacists are one of the largest providers of immunization administration across the U.S. In addition, Pharmacists' involvement in medication related care coordination can provide significant patient care quality improvement. The Collaborative hopes the HITPC and the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) will agree engagement of pharmacists as non-eligible providers of the MU of EHR will improve patient care and help other Eligible Professionals meet their MU incentives.

The Roadmap and the US Public Health Service report can be found on the Collaborative's website at www.pharmacyhit.org.

No Response.