



# Pharmacy e-Health Information Technology Collaborative

## Federal Advisory Committee HIT Policy Committee (HITPC) Certification and Adoption Work Group Meeting April 13, 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. I want to thank Larry Wolfe his insight and excellent overview about certification criteria for other health care providers.

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. As Larry noted in his slides, the pharmacy industry went through HL7 and NCPDP to develop an ANSI accredited Pharmacist/Pharmacy Provider EHR Functional Profile. The Pharmacy e-HIT Collaborative is working with software vendors to voluntarily define certification criteria as meaningful users of the EHR.

We are struggling with getting support for adoption of these standards and our industry would value recognition as pharmacists as meaningful users 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 defining EHR certification for pharmacists as non-eligible providers of the MU of EHR. We believe this will improve the adoption of the Pharmacist Pharmacy Provider EHR functionality, thereby improving quality of 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](http://www.pharmacyhit.org).

No Response.