



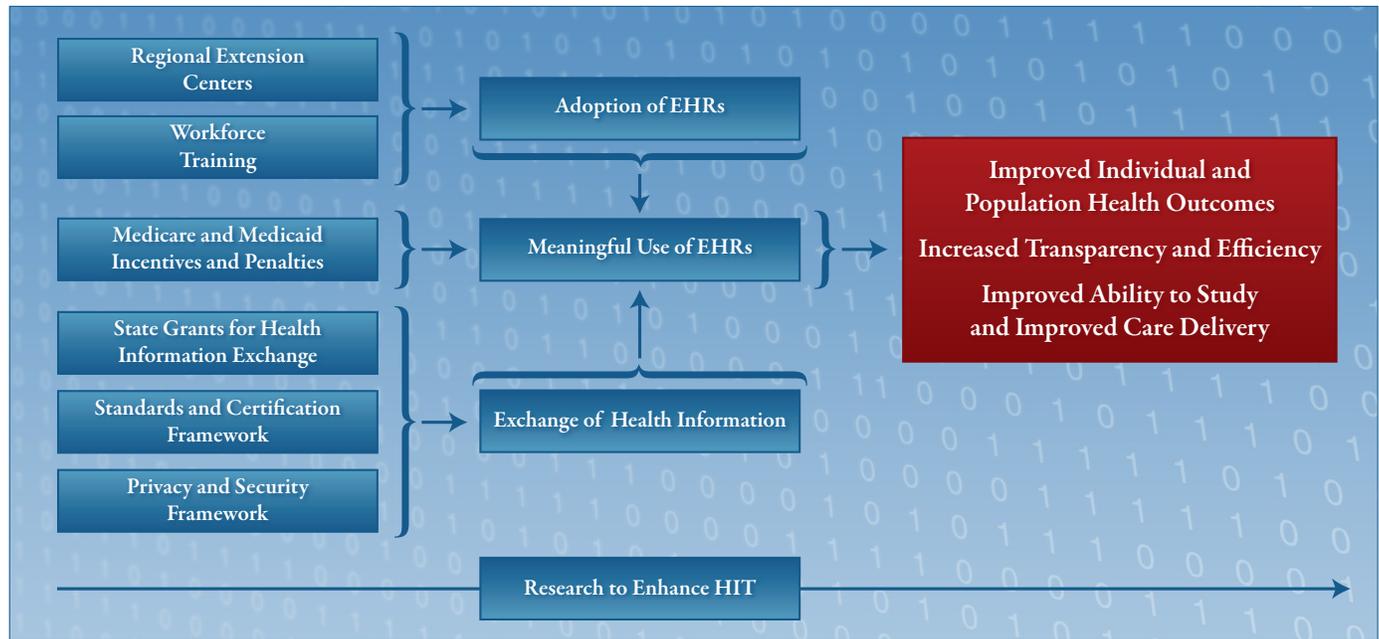
HITECH Progress

Signed into law on February 17, 2009, the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act represents a historic opportunity to improve American health care delivery and patient care through an unprecedented investment in health information technology (HIT). Over the past year, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has made significant strides in implementing components of the HITECH Act by launching innovative programs that have already awarded nearly \$800 million in grants. New regulations and programs created by the HITECH Act and their achievements to-date include:

NEW REGULATIONS		
NOTICES OF PROPOSED RULE-MAKING (NPRM)	YEAR ONE ACHIEVEMENTS	
Meaningful Use Criteria established for Medicare- and Medicaid-participating providers and hospitals to receive incentives for using electronic health records (EHRs) in a meaningful manner, which includes electronically capturing health information in a coded format, using that information to track key clinical conditions, communicating that information in order to help coordinate care, and initiating the reporting of clinical quality measure and public health information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced Meaningful Use Notice of Proposed Rule Making (December 2009) ✓ Please visit: www.Regulations.gov to comment 	
INTERIM FINAL RULE FOR STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION CRITERIA	YEAR ONE ACHIEVEMENTS	
Standards and Certification Criteria An initial set of standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria for EHRs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ONC announced Standards and Certification Criteria Interim Final Rule (December 2009) ✓ Please visit: www.Regulations.gov to comment 	
KEY PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES		
NAME & DESCRIPTION	ONC YEAR ONE ACHIEVEMENTS	FUNDS ALLOCATED
Regional Extension Centers (RECs) Establish up to 70 RECs to support providers in adopting and becoming meaningful users of health information technology (HIT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Announced Funding Opportunity for RECs (August 2009) ✓ Awarded 32 of the anticipated 60 to 70 REC grants (February 2010) 	\$643 Million
Health Information Exchange Support state programs to ensure the development of health information exchange within and across their jurisdictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Announced Funding Opportunity for State HIEs (August 2009) ✓ Awarded 40 of the anticipated 56 HIE grants (February 2010) 	\$564 Million
Workforce Training Programs Create several distinct programs that aim to support the education of HIT professionals, including curriculum development, competency examinations, and training. The goal is to train up to 45,000 new HIT workers to assist providers in becoming meaningful users of EHRs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Announced Community College Consortia Funding Opportunity (November 2009) ✓ Announced Curriculum Development Centers Program (December 2009) ✓ Announced Program of Assistance for University-Based Training (December 2009) ✓ Announced Competency Examination Program (December 2009) 	\$118 Million
Beacon Communities Provide funding to create up to 15 demonstration communities in which clinicians, hospitals, and consumers how the meaningful use of EHRs can achieve measurable improvement in the quality and efficiency of health services of public health outcomes in a given geographic area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Announced Funding Opportunity for Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program (December 2009) 	\$235 Million
Strategic Health Information Technology Advanced Research Projects (SHARP) Fund research focused on achieving breakthrough advances to address well-documented problems have impeded adoption of HIT, including: the security of HIT, patient-centered cognitive support, health care application and network-platform architectures, and secondary use of EHR data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Announced Funding Opportunity for Strategic Health IT Advanced Research Projects (December 2009) 	\$60 Million
* ONC will soon award remaining grants for the above programs.		
Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) Create a common platform for health information exchange across diverse entities, within communities, and across the country to promote a more effective marketplace, greater competition, and increased choice through accessibility to accurate information on health care costs, quality, and outcomes.		\$64.3 Million
Standards and Certification Develop interoperability specifications that identify harmonized standards and provide detailed technical specifications for how those standards need to be used; work with health care organizations and standards-development organizations to ensure that standards are available for use nationally.		

The HITECH Vision

The provisions of the HITECH Act are best understood not as investments in technology, but as efforts to improve the health of Americans and the performance of their health care system. HITECH Act programs and regulations address the most pressing obstacles to the adoption and meaningful use of EHRs and strive to create an electronic circulatory system for health information that nourishes the practice of medicine, research, and public health, making health care professionals better at what they do and the American people healthier. The flow chart below demonstrates how the various HITECH Act programs and regulations promote the meaningful use of EHRs:



Looking to the Future

Year two will begin with the roll out of the remaining HITECH initiatives. The Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program will establish over \$220 million in cooperative agreements with communities to build and strengthen their health IT infrastructure and health information exchange capabilities to achieve measurable improvements in health care quality, safety, efficiency, and population health. The national Health Information Technology Research Center will be launched. Four awards will be made under the Strategic Health IT Advanced Research Projects (SHARP) Program, supporting research focused on achieving breakthrough advances to address well-documented problems that have impeded adoption of health IT and to accelerate progress towards achieving nationwide meaningful use of health IT in support of a high-performing, continuously-learning health care system. The final set of awards for State Health Information Exchange programs and Regional Extension Centers awards will be announced. Enhancements to the Nationwide Health Information Network will support a wider variety of uses and users. Policy and regulatory activities will include a proposed regulation on certification programs for health IT and a number of significant activities to advance privacy and security. By the end of the year, all these components will be working together to deliver measurable progress toward a transformed health system where health data can follow patients to their point of care.

As ONC moves into implementing HITECH, the organization will focus its efforts on engaging and empowering its key stakeholders:

- **The Private Sector:** Once meaningful use requirements are clearly established, we hope that the private sector will continue its work to deliver workable systems to the marketplace. While ONC will provide leadership and critical tools for interoperability, ultimately private parties – providers, vendors, service companies, and insurers – will make health information exchange a reality.
- **Physicians and other Providers:** ONC is committed to working with providers and proactively responding to their concerns about the HITECH implementation. ONC will support the provider community through Regional Extension Centers to make sure we achieve these results.
- **The American Public:** The emergence of health information technology will change how patients interact with their health system. Americans will be able to more easily access, use, and move their health information through the health system. ONC will engage patients and consumers to help them understand how electronic health records can improve their lives and what protections exist to ensure the privacy and security of EHRs.

