

Orion Health comments on IT standards

Media release from Orion Health

NZ's Orion Health was one of five vendors who participated in the Implementation Workgroup of the HIT Standards committee held in Washington DC, representing some of the top-ranked vendors in health information technology in an major milestone towards achieving standardized exchange of health information.

The other vendors including eClinicalWorks, Microsoft, Relay Health and SureScripts all provided submissions offering opinions and advice on the standards to govern the quality, consistency and interoperability of seamless and secure exchange of electronic health information.

The hearings held by the **Department of Health and Human Services**, initiated an unprecedented effort to obtain public input in identifying the enablers and barriers to the adoption and implementation of electronic health information exchanges, to establish uniform standards for this data exchange, and how to best accelerate the adoption of health IT standards.

As a global health IT leader in clinical workflow and integration technology solutions, Orion Health contributed its extensive experience from implementing its software all over the world. Chris Stevens, Concerto Product Director for Orion Health Inc., presented Orion Health's submission. Mr Stevens's paper titled "Vendor Advice to the HIT Standards Committee" can be found [here](#)

Mr. Stevens said, "Health information technology is a major element of the nation's emerging health reform strategy. Electronic exchanges will be critical in connecting the rapidly growing number of providers using electronic medical records and other systems. It is important that we find the best approach to meeting these goals "

Stevens discussed the early adoption in Canada of HL7 V3 and the need to help smaller vendors with tools and affordable solutions to speed adoption.

"It was an honor to be asked to participate in this extremely important event, that will help the advancement of health data exchange, and in the end, better patient care. Some key recommendations we made to the committee included keeping standards focused and simple, and to build on technology that already exists," Stevens continued.

Orion Health's submission to the HIT Standards Committee gave the benefit of its experience in the implementation of interoperable health information technology that delivers improved healthcare outcomes, quality and reduces associated costs.

The advice and recommendations Orion Health offered to the HIT Standards Committee to consider included:

- Providing good supporting documentation for health IT standards
- Working with and develop existing standards rather than adopting new ones
- Engage with the vendor community to provide confidence in the longevity standards
- Consider the entire HIT landscape, including legislative and economic barriers to HIT adoption.

The HIT Standards Committee has taken advantage of the collective learning of others by inaugurating the Implementation Workgroup. This knowledge will go a long way towards overcoming the barriers to the implementation of a world-class health system for all Americans.