

# Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC)

VIRTUAL

Meeting Notes | August 17, 2023, 11 AM – 12:15 PM ET

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The HITAC Co-Chairs, **Medell Briggs-Malonson** and **Aaron Miri** welcomed members, reviewed the meeting agenda, and presented the minutes from the June 15, 2023, HITAC meeting, which were approved by voice vote. **Steve Posnack**, Deputy National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), welcomed attendees to the meeting, reviewed the agenda, and provided ONC updates and information on upcoming events. **Shelly Spiro** and **Hans Buitendijk**, Pharmacy Interoperability and Emerging Therapeutics Task Force (PhIET) Co-Chairs, reviewed the Task Force's membership, charge, progress, and timeline. **Albert Taylor**, Medical Informatics Officer, Office of Technology, ONC, provided a detailed overview of changes to United States Core Data for Interoperability Version 4 (USCDI v4), ONC New Data Element and Class (ONDEC), and reviewed adopted HITAC recommendations. **Aaron Neinstein** announced his new role as Chief Medical Officer at Notable Health. **Hung Luu** announced that he joined the clinical advisory committee for Health Gorilla.

## AGENDA

11:00 AM	Call to Order/Roll Call
11:05 AM	Welcome Remarks
11:10 AM	Opening Remarks, Review of the Agenda and June 15, 2023, Meeting Notes – HITAC Vote
11:15 AM	Pharmacy Interoperability and Emerging Therapeutics Task Force Update
11:35 AM	Overview of United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) Version 4
12:05 PM	Public Comment
12:15 PM	Final Remarks and Adjourn

## CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

**Mike Berry**, Designated Federal Officer, ONC, called the August 17, 2023, meeting to order at 11:00 AM and welcomed ONC's executive leadership team to the meeting.

## ROLL CALL

Medell Briggs-Malonson, UCLA Health, Co-Chair  
Aaron Miri, Baptist Health, Co-Chair  
Shila Blend, North Dakota Health Information Network  
Hans Buitendijk, Oracle Health  
Sarah DeSilvey, Gravity Project  
Steven (Ike) Eichner, Texas Department of State Health Services



Cynthia A. Fisher, PatientRightsAdvocate.org  
Lisa Frey, St. Elizabeth Healthcare  
Hannah Galvin, Cambridge Health Alliance  
Rajesh Godavarthi, MCG Health, part of the Hearst Health Network  
Steven Hester, Norton Healthcare  
Jim Jirjis, HCA Healthcare  
Kensaku (Ken) Kawamoto, University of Utah Health  
Steven Lane, Health Gorilla  
Hung S. Luu, Children's Health  
Arien Malec, Individual  
Anna McCollister, Individual  
Clem McDonald, National Library of Medicine  
Deven McGraw, Invitae Corporation  
Aaron Neinstein, Notable  
Eliel Oliveira, Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin  
Kikelomo Oshunkentan, Pegasystems  
Naresh Sundar Rajan, CyncHealth  
Alexis Snyder, Individual  
Fillipe Southerland, Yardi Systems, Inc.  
Sheryl Turney, Elevance Health

## HITAC MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Valerie Grey, State University of New York  
Bryant Thomas Karras, Washington State Department of Health


## FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Adi V. Gundlapalli, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (*Absent*)  
Meg Marshall, Department of Veterans Affairs  
Alex Mugge, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (*attending on behalf of Michelle Schreiber*)  
Ram Sriram, National Institute of Standards and Technology

## ONC STAFF

Steve Posnack, Deputy National Coordinator for Health Information Technology  
Elise Sweeney Anthony, Executive Director, Office of Policy  
Avinash Shanbhag, Executive Director, Office of Technology  
Mike Berry, Designated Federal Officer  
Al Taylor, Medical Informatics Officer, Office of Technology

## WELCOME REMARKS



**Steve Posnack**, Deputy National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, welcomed attendees and thanked **Shelly Spiro** and **Hans Buitendijk** for their hard work on the PhIET Task Force. **Steve** provided some ONC updates, including that the comment period for the Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA) is open until October 6, 2023, and with the publication of USCDI v4, ONC is accepting submissions for new data classes and elements along with comments on existing data elements for the draft USCDI v5. The deadline for USCDI v5 submission and comments is September 20, 2023. He noted that standards recently approved as part of the Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) can be voluntarily adopted by health IT developers participating in the ONC Health IT Certification Program starting September 11, 2023. He added that the HHS Office of Inspector General published its final rule related to the civil monetary penalties applicable to the development of certified health IT and any health information networks and health information exchanges. More information on the final rule can be found at [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov). In addition to ONC updates, Steve mentioned upcoming ONC events including the ONC Annual Meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of this year, two ONC Tech Forum events covering Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) and Application Programming Interface (API) implementation and a two-day workshop on data exchange on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a joint ONC and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services patient access event coming up on October 18<sup>th</sup>. More event information can be found on the events page at [www.HealthIT.gov](http://www.HealthIT.gov).

## Opening Remarks, Review of the Agenda and June 15, 2023, Meeting Notes – HITAC Vote

**Medell Briggs-Malonson** and **Aaron Miri**, HITAC Co-Chairs, welcomed attendees. **Aaron** reviewed the agenda. **Medell** called for a motion to approve the June 15 meeting notes.

**Sarah DeSilvey** motioned to approve the notes. This motion was seconded by **Jim Jirjis**. **The HITAC approved the June meeting notes by voice vote. No members abstained and no members opposed.**

**Medell** introduced **Shelly Spiro** and **Hans Buitendijk** for their update on the progress with the Pharmacy Interoperability and Emerging Therapeutics Task Force (PhIET TF).

## Pharmacy Interoperability and Emerging Therapeutics Task Force Update

**Shelly Spiro**, Task Force Co-Chair, thanked everyone for their support and [reviewed the overarching charge of the task force](#). She also reviewed the task force member roster and updated the committee on the PhIET TF's progress on all tasks.

**Hans Buitendijk**, Task Force Co-Chair, reviewed upcoming meeting topics and tasks, discussed major themes raised in PhIET meetings, and mentioned some of the challenges identified by the task force, i.e., data sharing, funding, and adoption.

Discussion:



- **Hannah Galvin** asked if Durable Medical Equipment (DME) pharmacies are within the scope of discussion.
- **Shelly** said DME pharmacies have not been mentioned specifically, but they are open for discussion. She asked for suggestions from subject matter experts.
- **Steven Lane** applauded ONC for putting together this task force and noted the success PhIET is having in identifying real challenges and recommending solutions. He added that patients need full access to data and to be fully integrated into data sharing.
- **Aaron Miri** thanked **Shelly** and **Hans** and noted the importance of the work PhIET is doing, and then introduced **AI Taylor**.

## Overview of United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) Version 4

**AI Taylor**, Medical Informatics Officer, Office of Technology, ONC, reviewed [USCDI v4](#), focusing on the newly added data classes and elements. He also reviewed prioritization criteria for the new USCDI data elements and noted that the deadline for submissions for new data classes and elements along with comments on existing data elements for the draft USCDI v5 is September 20, 2023, with a tentative release date of January 2024. He also discussed ONDEC changes focusing on transparency and level criteria language. Lastly, he gave a detailed review of HITAC recommendations adopted from the [HITAC Final Report on USCDI Draft Version 4](#) transmitted April 12, 2023.

### Discussion:

- **Steven Eichner** asked if comments not adopted in the last generation can be resubmitted for level two consideration within USCDI v5 recommendations. He also asked for insight on aligning laboratory data with public health reporting.
- **AI Taylor** answered yes; level two comments are welcome, including any recommendations previously made but not adopted. He also noted that laboratory elements were added in a way that aligns, as best as possible, with public health reporting.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

**Mike Berry** opened the meeting for public comments.

## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VERBALLY

**Mari Savickis**, College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME), noted patient identification as a source of significant concern for CHIME members. That is the primary barrier to universal interoperability and data sharing across systems. She thanked the group for mentioning it and welcomed the opportunity to work with the administration.

**Cynthia Fisher**, HITAC Member, raised concerns over patient aspect pricing being co-pay centered. She suggested a digital record of total prices for all services, including lab services, for increased accountability and accessibility.

## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ZOOM WEBINAR CHAT

Shila Blend: Shila Blend-Present

Alexis Snyder: Congratulations Aaron!



Deven McGraw, Invitae: Congratulations, Aaron!

Shila Blend: Congrats Aaron

Aaron Miri: Congrats Aaron ! ( although I feel like I'm patting myself on the back as I type this ). :-)

Eliel Oliveira: Congrats Hung and Aaron!

Mike Berry (ONC): Welcome to the August 2023 HITAC meeting. Meeting materials can be found at: <https://www.healthit.gov/hitac/events/health-it-advisory-committee-59>

Mike Berry (ONC): Please remember to tag "Everyone" when using Zoom chat. Thanks!

Kim Lundberg: <https://www.healthit.gov/news/events/2023-onc-annual-meeting>

Seth Pazinski: Info on participating in ONC events - <https://www.healthit.gov/newsroom/events>

Kim Boyd: Thank you Pharmacy TF on your focus and listening to the community and the needs to further interoperability amongst interdisciplinary teams, inclusive of pharmacists and holistically caring for the patient.

Deven McGraw, Invitae: Great summary from the co-chairs - thank you.

Medell K. Briggs-Malonson: Excellent work and overview!

Shila Blend: Great overview. Thanks

Steven Lane: Interested in learning more about ONC's perspective on the specific relevance of the new Goals and Preferences data elements to addressing equity and the needs of underserved populations.

Valerie Borek: Lay person question, to understand data flow. Is it fair to say the USCDI is meant to be a kind of Rosetta Stone for transfer of health data?

Sarah DeSilvey: As ISWG cochair want to thank again the ISWG for their exhaustive efforts and expertise as we worked toward HITAC recs for USCDIv4

Aaron Miri: HITAC members: Given we are short on time. Please feel free to reach out to our incredible ONC team ( Al Taylor or any of them) with any detailed questions you may have.

Eliel Oliveira: Great presentation Albert. Thank you!

Steven Lane: While I submitted a question above, I want to make a general observation that a lot of taskforce members, HITAC members, and members of the public have invested tremendous energy in developing recommendations to ONC, many of which continue to sit on the table for future consideration. I think that these individuals deserve some reassurance and encouragement to remain engaged in the process.

Roger Benn: Excellent, as always. Thank you for sharing and guiding. Greatly appreciate it.

## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

There were no public comments received via email.

## FINAL REMARKS

**Aaron Miri** and **Medell Briggs-Malonson** thanked attendees for their participation.



## **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.