

Glossary of Healthcare Acronyms

Getting the message right is more important than ever, but it seems that when it comes to healthcare, we all have to learn a new language. Acronyms are thrown around in healthcare even more than IT, leaving even the experts scratching their heads as they try to understand what's being said. Here are some of the most common acronyms you may encounter in your healthcare IT opportunities:

AHIMA - American Health Information Management Association promotes and advocates for high-quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information, and actively contributes to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide.

AMA - American Medical Association is a national association organized into local and regional societies that represent more than 700,000 medical doctors in the U.S.

ARRA - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an economic stimulus package focused on jump starting the Nation's economy and its infrastructure for America's energy, health and education needs.

CCHIT - Certification Commission for Health Information Technology is a non-profit organization driven to accelerate the adoption of health IT.

EHR - Electronic Health Records embody a computerized system providing real-time data access and evaluation in medical care.

HHS - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regulates and administers health and human service programs in the U.S.

HIE - Health Information Exchange is the mobilization of healthcare information electronically across organizations within a region, community or hospital system.

HIMSS - Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society is a healthcare industry association exclusively focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of HIT and management systems for the betterment of healthcare.

HIT - Health Information Technology is the comprehensive management of medical information and its secure exchange between healthcare consumers and providers.

HL7 - Health Level Seven is a volunteer group involved in developing international healthcare standards.

IPA - Independent Practice Association is an organization of physicians who have joined together for the purpose of contracting with HMOs, PPOs or other payers.

ONC - Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT is a federal organization that supports the adoption of health information technology and promotes nationwide health information exchange to improve healthcare.

RHIO - Regional Health Information Organization brings together healthcare stakeholders within a defined geographic area and governs HIE.

Helpful Links

The healthcare IT market is currently one of the hottest markets with the implementation of the President's Stimulus Plan and new initiatives. Keeping up with all the pertinent information can be a daunting task.

The following online HIT news sources can help you stay in the know regarding all the IT needs of the healthcare industry:

www.healthcareitnews.com

www.emrwatch.com

www.govhealthit.com

www.healthcarefinancenews.com

www.himss.org/ASP/publications_jhim.asp

www.emrnews.com
www.healthcaretechnologyonline.com
www.informationweek.com/healthcare/EMR

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) includes opportunities for HIT spending especially in the Electronic Health Records segment. The following links contain valuable insight into some of the healthcare IT opportunities:

www.recovery.gov
www.hhs.gov/recovery

There are numerous organizations and trade associations whose primary focus is HIT. As a healthcare IT provider there are several organizations supporting HIT.

www.Himss.org
www.ama-assn.org
www.CCHIT.org
www.AHIMA.org
www.hrsa.gov

News and Articles

Wondering if your medical practice will qualify for the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) incentive in the ARRA? [This study](#) contains some key indicators you can use to qualify your practice.

The questions concerning the stimulus package's Healthcare initiative continue to mount. What do the terms mean? How big is the market? What about interoperability? Dr. John Halamaka, CIO of Caregroup Health System and Harvard Medical School answers the 10 most asked questions he has received regarding Healthcare IT and the stimulus bill. For details, [click here](#).

[10 Healthcare Trends to Watch in 2010](#) - With a major push toward healthcare reform and the appropriation of nearly \$20 billion in federal stimulus funds as part of ARRA (The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act), 2009 was an action-packed year for the healthcare industry, particularly healthcare IT. 2010 promises to be even more dynamic as healthcare organizations prepare for upcoming industry changes and position themselves to take advantage of government incentives.

[E-Health Record Loans Help Smaller Practices](#)