



Electronic Health Record Association Creates New Workgroup to Focus on Healthcare Delivery System Reform

(Chicago, February 25, 2015) The Electronic Health Record Association (EHRA), a trade association of companies that provide the vast majority of operational EHRs to hospitals and physicians across the US, announced today that it has established a new Delivery System Reform Workgroup to accelerate the ability of companies that develop EHRs to contribute to the effort to transform the US healthcare system.

"There is a central relationship between health information technology (IT) and the significant delivery system and payment reform efforts currently underway to shift healthcare toward value-based and integrated care models," said Mark Segal, PhD (GE Healthcare IT), EHRA Chair. "Our members, whose clients are the majority of hospitals and ambulatory organizations using EHRs to improve the efficiency and quality of patient care, offer many products and services that extend beyond traditional EHRs, while leveraging EHR data or integrating with EHR technology," Segal went on to say.

The Workgroup will be a source of information and education for EHRA members, providing a forum for discussion, as well as a vehicle for monitoring and providing input to congressional and regulatory initiatives. "We anticipate a variety of payment and delivery reform initiatives that will continue to have a profound effect on the healthcare providers that we serve," Segal added. "These professionals and organizations rely upon us for education on how EHRs and other health IT can provide solutions to high-impact regulatory and market changes."

Drawing on the expertise of the nearly 40 EHRA member companies, the Delivery System Reform Workgroup will collaborate with other industry stakeholders – provider organizations, payers, and patient advocacy groups, among others – to ensure that EHRs and other health IT are appropriately applied as foundational tools to policy reforms that seek to manage costs while ensuring high-quality patient care in the US healthcare system.

Sarah Corley, MD (NextGen Healthcare), EHRA Vice Chair, added, "We are seeing the real convergence of what has been traditionally siloed as clinical data and financial data into *healthcare information* that is essential to the success of accountable care organizations and new payment models. In keeping with EHRA's efforts to provide practical advice and guidance to the regulatory process, this new workgroup will bring insights to policymakers and provide important information back to our members as these initiatives move forward," Dr. Corley concluded.



Like the Association's other workgroups, which cover certification, clinician experience and usability, meaningful use, patient safety, privacy and security, public policy, electronic quality measures, and standards and interoperability, the Healthcare Delivery System Reform Workgroup is open to individuals from all EHRA member companies. The new workgroup is currently seeking volunteers and looks forward to working with other stakeholder groups as their important work begins.

About the EHR Association

Established in 2004, the Electronic Health Record Association (EHRA) is comprised of nearly 40 companies that supply the vast majority of operational EHRs to physicians' practices and hospitals across the United States. The Association operates on the premise that the rapid, widespread adoption of EHRs will help improve the quality of patient care as well as the productivity and sustainability of the healthcare system as a key enabler of healthcare transformation. EHRA and its members are committed to supporting safe healthcare delivery, fostering continued innovation, and operating with high integrity in the market for our users and their patients and families.

The EHR Association is a partner of HIMSS. For more information, visit www.ehrassociation.org.

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