AAP HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

The American Academy of Pediatrics Health Information Technology (HIT) activities are supported by the Child Health Informatics Center (CHIC) and Council on Clinical Information Technology (COCIT). The CHIC was launched in 2009 to meet the need of supporting HIT and pediatricians’ use of electronic health records (EHRs). The CHIC works at the national and state level to help pediatricians with the adoption and use of HIT, leads implementation projects, and serves as the home for these HIT initiatives within the AAP.

The COCIT is focused on supporting pediatric HIT and health information exchange (HIE) within pediatric practice while addressing AAP priorities. The council is made up of over 500 members with special interest or training in applying HIT to pediatrics and is led by an 11-member Executive Committee, which is focused on supporting pediatric HIT needs in practice. In addition to supporting its members, COCIT leads a variety of HIT-related education and policy development activities.

COCIT and CHIC realize the importance for HIT to be designed, deployed, and managed effectively, and work to maintain connections and integrate activities to support the following AAP HIT mission and goals:

- Provide strategic direction/leadership for the promotion of affordable, child-friendly HIT solutions
- Increase awareness of HIT as it relates to improved quality and efficiency of pediatric care
- Advocate for pediatricians’ HIT needs, including working with state and federal sources
- Provide resources and education about EHR adoption and implementation
- Support the translation and spread of AAP knowledge and content into an electronic format

The AAP’s HIT activities are organized into two key areas: 

**Effective EHR Adoption and Use**

**Advocacy**

- The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has reached out to AAP for guidance, support, and expertise related to the development of a national pediatric certification of EHRs. This is an element of the 21st Century Cures Act, which was signed into law in 2016.
- The 2017 AAP Legislative Conference will take place in Washington, DC, from April 23-25. For the second year, the conference will include a Pediatric Subspecialty Advocacy Track. This track features unique opportunities for specialists, including a skills-building workshop on how to frame specialty expertise to legislators and build relationships with congressional staff. To learn more about the conference, email LegislativeConference@aap.org or visit www.aap.org/legcon.

**Education and Policy**

- The COCIT Educational (H) Program at the AAP’s National Conference and Exhibition will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2017. The afternoon panel presentations will cover cybersecurity fundamentals and teach attendees how to protect themselves, their organizations, and their patients’ data from illegal hacking. The panel will discuss the changing landscape of cybersecurity, including the evolving ways criminals are gaining access to date. In addition, the experts will detail practical actions the participants can take to greatly reduce the risk of a successful cyberattack.
Sunday, September 17, 2017
Council on Clinical Information Technology Abstracts Program, Oberst Award Presentation, and Business Meeting
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Cyber Security Panel Presentation and Discussion
2:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Marvin Harper, MD, FAAP; Daniel Nigrin, MD, MS, FAAP; Kenneth Bixby, Federal Bureau of Investigation

- Each month COCIT identifies authors and content for two columns, Health IT Trends and Tech Tip, in AAP News. Recent articles are available at the links below:
  - Child Health Informatics Center stands up for pediatricians
  - CDC Opioid Guideline app helps with treatment decisions for patients 18 years and older

- The council continues to develop policy related to pediatric HIT, including:
  - Electronic Documentation in Pediatrics: The Rationale and Functionality Requirements (in development)
  - Principles for Electronic Communication of the Health Record and Information with Pediatric Patients (in development)
  - Special Requirements of Electronic Health Records Systems in Pediatrics (revision in development)
  - Web Services in Pediatric Care (in development)
  - Immunization Information Systems (in development).

In the coming months, COCIT will begin the process of revising the policy statement on Standards for Health Information Technology to Ensure Adolescent Privacy. In addition, COCIT is co-authoring the revision of Emergency Information Forms and Emergency Preparedness for Children with Special Health Care Needs with the Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

Member Outreach & Support
COCIT and CHIC work to engage and support all AAP members, collaborating with other AAP committees, sections, and councils, and creating practical content and resources that can be used by pediatric health care providers.

- Beginning in late 2016, AAP has seen an increase in requests from AAP members, particularly those running small private practices, for assistance with Meaningful Use audits. The CHIC, under the leadership of Dr Christoph Lehmann, has taken a leadership role in providing guidance and support to these pediatricians.

- COCIT and CHIC continue to maintain the AAP’s Meaningful Use web page at http://www2.aap.org/informatics/AAPOverview.html. The site includes information about changes to the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and links to resources to support physicians in their attestations.

- In Spring, 2016, COCIT rolled out their Member Profile Pilot, which is designed to gain a better handle on the wide spectrum of health information technology interests, experience, and expertise within the COCIT membership. A user experience survey was distributed to COCIT members in February, 2017. Dr Stuart Weinberg will report the results back to AAP leadership in the spring of 2017.
COCIT continues to maintain the EMR Review Site: http://www.aapcocit.org/emr. At the 2016 Annual Leadership Forum, participants adopted a resolution for AAP to re-assess the need for this site prior to its planned discontinuation on June 30, 2017.

COCIT’s Communications Subcommittee distributes the COCIT Digest e-Newsletter quarterly to the COCIT membership. The Spring issue features important updates from the Council’s subcommittees and includes information about education, elections, bylaws, new policy, and opportunities for member participation.

**Partnership for Policy Implementation**

The Partnership for Policy Implementation (PPI) continues to pair volunteer clinical informaticians with AAP authors to increase the “actionability” of AAP clinical guidance, with a specific focus on incorporating recommendations into electronic health records. A short video to introduce the PPI process and how it enhances the clinical guidance provided in AAP’s Clinical Reports and Clinical Practice Guidelines is available on the http://www2.aap.org/informatics/PPI.html and on AAP’s YouTube channel.

**HIT Research and Development at AAP**

**Electronic Health Record Template Project**

CHIC, in collaboration with COCIT, is designing an electronic health record template library for AAP members. This library will provide a place for pediatricians to share, peer review, and download templates developed by others and to reduce effort and promote best practices. A pilot to test the library functionality launched in October, 2015. For more information, please visit http://www2.aap.org/informatics/BulletinBoard.html.

**Periodic Survey of Fellows #95**

The Periodic Survey of Fellows #95, distributed in 2016, included questions that focused on EHR usage, Meaningful Use participation, EHR challenges, health information exchange, usability of EHRs in pediatric practice, and quality of life & EHR remote access. Results will be presented in a poster session at PAS in May, 2017.

**ePROS (Electronic Pediatric Research in Office Settings)**

In the past two decades, pediatricians have steadily switched from paper to electronic health records. This has opened exciting opportunities for using electronic data to conduct practice-based research. The AAP’s Department of Research supports ePROS, an EHR-based research network to conduct epidemiological and observational comparative effectiveness research and comparative effectiveness research on interventions to improve care. More information about ePROS, including publications, is available at http://www2.aap.org/pros/pros/index.htm.

**CER² (Comparative Effectiveness Research through Collaborative Electronic Reporting)**

AAP’s Department of Research established the CER² super-network in 2012 with funding from MCHB and HRSA, in partnership with NICHD. With over 2000 practitioners in 222 practice sites across the USA, the network has extracted data from more than 1.2 million pediatric patients in 27 states. For more information, including news articles and data specs, visit http://www2.aap.org/pros/CER2.htm.
For additional information related to the COCIT, CHIC, PPI and/or other AAP HIT activities, please visit
www.aap.org/chic or contact:

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