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 HIT Adoption and Use* and *Research and Development*.

**Effective EHR Adoption and Use**

**Advocacy**

- With leadership from COCIT and CHIC, the AAP has worked closely with Surescripts in the last year to advocate for increased transmission of patient weight and height data in e-prescribing. As a result, during their Summer 2016 meeting the National Council for Prescription Drug Control Policy (NCPDP) agreed to strengthen language around this in the SCRIPT Standards. The future version of the NCPDP SCRIPT standard for new e-prescriptions for patients under 18 years will include the most recent height and weight, with time and date stamp. This will allow pediatricians and pharmacists to share this information and provide safe, weight-based dosing. More information about this great effort will be available in the December 2016 edition of *AAP News*.

- In recent months, AAP has submitted comments on the following proposed rules and legislation:
  - [ONC Health IT Certification Program: Enhance Oversight and Accountability](#)
  - [Assessing Interoperability for the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015](#)
  - [Merit Based Incentives Program (MIPS)](#)
Education and Policy
• COCIT will host three general sessions at the 2016 AAP National Conference and Exhibition in San Francisco, CA:

  **Monday, October 24, 2016**
  I3048- MOC, Quality of Care and Your EMR
  8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
  Donna D’Alessandro, MD, FAAP

  **Tuesday, October 25, 2016**
  F4071- Wearable Technology: Patient Data From the Wrist to the Office
  2:00 PM - 2:45 PM
  Nalaka Gooneratne, MD, MSc

  F4087- Patient Portals: Basics, Practical Tips and Avoiding Pitfalls
  3:00 PM - 3:45 PM
  Michael Leu, MD, FAAP

• The COCIT Educational (H) Program at the National Conference and Exhibition will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2016. The presentations will be about shaping the EHR to work for you and your practice, navigating the complex world of EHR data to support measurement and improvement, and meaningfully engaging patients in their own health and healthcare through HIT.

  **Sunday, October 23, 2016**
  H2066- Council on Clinical Information Technology Abstracts Program, Oberst Award Presentation, and Business Meeting
  9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

  H2145- Joint Program: Council on Quality Improvement & Patient Safety and Council on Clinical Information Technology
  2:30 PM - 5:00 PM
  Lalit Bajaj, MD, FAAP, Arti Desai, MD, FAAP and Steve Downs, MD, FAAP

• Each month COCIT identifies authors and content for two columns, Health IT Trends and Tech Tip, in AAP News. The most recent articles are available below:
  - Federal mandate aims to improve how gender identify is recorded in EHR
  - App lets you share cases securely, learn from others

• 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 Electronic Health Records with Pediatric Patients (in development)
  - Special Requirements of Electronic Health Records Systems in Pediatrics (revision in development)
  - Web Services in Pediatric Care (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.

- COCIT and CHIC continue to maintain the AAP’s Meaningful Use web page at [http://www2.aap.org/informatics/AAPOverview.html](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 talent, experience, and expertise within the COCIT membership. The tool allows COCIT members to self-identify specific HIT-related areas of interest and expertise, and to connect and collaborate with peers who have similar interests. Dr Weinberg presented the Pilot to the AAP Board of Directors in June, 2016, and intends to report results of the project back to the Board in the early part of 2017.

- COCIT continues to maintain the EMR Review Site: [http://www.aapcocit.org/emr](http://www.aapcocit.org/emr). At the 2016 Annual Leadership Forum, participants adopted a resolution for AAP the 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.

- In Spring, 2016, a FAAP attesting to Meaningful Use reached out to the AAP because her state was asking her to give money back based on an issue within her EHR that was beyond her control. Dr Lehmann worked with CMS Medicaid Meaningful Use staff to find a resolution that ultimately worked in favor of the pediatrician.

Partnership for Policy Implementation
The Partnership for Policy Implementation (PPI) has continued 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. In 2015, the group developed 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. The video is available for viewing on the [PPI web site](http://www.aapcocit.org/emr) 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](http://www2.aap.org/informatics/BulletinBoard.html).

Periodic Survey of Fellows #95
CHIC, with support from COCIT, developed HIT-focused questions for the 2016 Periodic Survey of Fellows #95, which was distributed in Summer, 2016. The questions focus on EHR usage, Meaningful Use participation, EHR challenges, health information exchange, usability of EHRs in pediatric practice, and quality of life & EHR remote access. The survey closes in November, 2016.
NCBDDD Public Health & Clinical Care Partnership for Electronic Health Information Capacity in Pediatrics

CHIC continues to support the AAP in working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on efforts around the “NCBDDD Public Health & Clinical Care Partnership for Electronic Health Information Capacity in Pediatrics”. The goal of this project is to identify a common interoperability standards approach for developmental screening that is informed by best practice and clinical practice guidelines. Year 2 grant objectives included conducting interviews to build out case studies that highlight the experiences of primary care physicians with integrating developmental screening into EHRs, enlisting stakeholders in disseminating recommendations identified in the roadmap, and executing critical next steps outlined in the roadmap.

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/eprs/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:

Christoph U. Lehmann, MD, FAAP  
CHIC Medical Director  
christoph.u.lehmann@vanderbilt.edu

Lisa Krams, MS  
Manager, Quality and Health IT Policy  
lkrams@aap.org

Cathleen Guch, MPH  
Manager, Quality and Health IT Education  
cguch@aap.org