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NEWS BRIEF | 06.17.10

Deadline extension for CMS telemedicine standards

Due to a recent proposed telemedicine rule change made by CMS, the Joint Commission's July 15th deadline for general and critical access hospitals implementation of telemedicine standards has been stretched to March 2011. The extension offers providers additional time to meet Medicare's telemedicine credentialing and privileging requirements.

The deadline was extended in response to a perception that the July 15 date negatively affected the ability of providers to offer telehealth services. The Joint Commission will comment on the proposed rule by July 26th.

[Read the full story >>](#)

HIMSS Analytics releases results of clinical analytics study

HIMSS Analytics, along with Anvita Health, recently surveyed a group of chief medical officers and chief medical informatics officers from different payer and provider organizations to assess their readiness for adoption of EMRs and medical devices.

The study specifically addressed how organizations define clinical analytics, what tools they use to analyze the data and the challenges they experienced in using clinical data.

The study found that payers and providers shared the following views:

1. Limited expectations for the ability of clinical analytics to improve the

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Colleen Sauter
763.230.1245

csauter@ohitx.org

- quality of patient care
2. Interoperability is one of the largest barriers standing in the way of improved use of clinical data
 3. Real-time analytics is an important tool for evaluating and improving patient care, healthcare costs and overall efficiency

[View the HIMSS Analytics press release >>](#)

[View the study >>](#)

Blumenthal announces the creation of "Health IT Journey: Stories from the Road"

ONC has launched a new feature on its website to aid practices and providers on their way to achieving meaningful use of EHR solutions. The site, called "Health IT Journey: Stories from the Road", will serve as a portal where providers can share with each other their challenges, triumphs and the lessons they've learned along the way.

Providers can log onto the site and view the experiences posted by other Health IT users to help them determine which paths to take or avoid on their journey to meaningful use.

[View the Health IT Blog >>](#)

[Visit the Health IT Journey: Stories from the Road website >>](#)

Open Health IT Exchange (OHITX)
5500 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Phone: 763.230.1255
Fax: 952.230.9002
info@ohitx.org

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