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NEWS BRIEF | 06.23.10

FDA unveils new website—View risk summaries for approved drugs

The FDA has created a new public website where it will post, on a quarterly basis, medicine risk summaries coupled with the agency's planned course of action to address the safety issues. The Agency will post information on a particular type of medicine either 18 months after it has been approved or after 10,000 patients have used it, depending on which comes later.

The new website is meant to help physicians and patients make more knowledgeable decisions about different treatment options. So far, the FDA has posted risk summaries for 26 different drugs and vaccines.

[Read the full story >>](#)

HHS contributes \$250 million to new primary care workforce programs

In an effort to address the major shortage for primary care physicians, Health and Human Services (HHS), via the Affordable Healthcare Act, has put time and money into the creation of five new programs:

- \$168 million for the creation of additional primary care residency slots
- \$32 million supporting physician assistant training in primary care
- \$30 million for the encouragement of students to pursue full-time nursing careers
- \$15 million establishing new nurse-practitioner-led clinics
- \$5 million for the encouragement of states to plan for/address health

Collaborative Health IT "CHIT CHAT"

June 23 | 1 - 2:30 p.m. CDT
HITECH Act: The Yellow Brick Road to Meaningful Use

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professional workforce needs

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Each of the five programs focuses on motivating more individuals to enter professional healthcare fields, as well as physician promotion of wellness and prevention towards patients everywhere.

[Read the full story >>](#)

Dr. David Blumenthal shares his opinion on critical EHR topics

InformationWeek interviewed Dr. Blumenthal, national coordinator for health IT, about the questions and reservations that patients and health providers harbor with regards to EHRs. After speaking with many providers regarding an EHR, Dr. Blumenthal asserted that their main concerns are: the cost of acquiring one, technical challenges associated with implementation, possible loss of productivity after implementation, how it will fit it with their practice and style, and whether it will negatively affect their ability to carry out every day work.

Some consumers and patients are weary that by making their health records digital it will also make them less secure. Dr. Blumenthal stated that rules and penalties have been put in place for the protection of electronic health records such as the ONC interim final rule on breach notification, harsher penalties for breach notification, privacy and security laws under HIPAA and restrictions on uses of patient information.

The intended goal of meaningful use is to ensure that the information follows the patient and to allow care needs to be met no matter the facility they choose to visit. Blumenthal stressed that in order to achieve this goal, it is imperative that all hospitals and doctors practices participate in meaningful use. For doctors that choose not to comply with meaningful use requirements, not only will they impede our country's ability to provide better care, but they will also be stifling their own practice's ability to thrive and grow.

Blumenthal closed the interview by reminding healthcare providers that they have plenty of time before the October 2011 deadline for documentation of meaningful use and there are many organizations ready and eager to help them

through the process.

[Read the full Q&A at InformationWeek.com >>](#)

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MEANINGFUL USE?

HURRY, register for today's OHITX Collaborative Health IT "CHIT CHAT" Meaningful Use Webinar at 1:00 p.m. CDT.

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