



The [Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel \(HITSP\)](#) is a cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors. The Panel was formed for the purpose of harmonizing and integrating standards that will meet clinical and business needs for sharing information among organizations and systems.

Welcome to *HITSP News*, a monthly newsletter that provides news on the activities of the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel. Visit the HITSP Web site at www.hitsp.org for more information. If you have news or ideas for *HITSP News*, please send them to hitsp@ansi.org for consideration.

HITSP Webinars: Educating New Audiences on HITSP Standards Harmonization

Whether new to HITSP or a veteran volunteer, the [HITSP Webinar series](#) offers an on-demand resource that educates and involves listeners on the work of this independent standards harmonization organization. The interactive, 90-minute sessions cover timely topics and have been developed by a group of dedicated volunteers in a short amount of time.

The HITSP Education, Communication and Outreach Committee manages the [webinar educational initiative](#), which began in June 2008 with the [first webinar](#), explained Joan Duke, co-chair of the HITSP-ECO Committee working group that drives webinar development. Ms. Duke is Founder and Partner in HCIC, LLC, a healthcare management consulting firm. "Presented over the Internet, these online audio/video events allow participation from virtually anywhere. Both live audio and video presentations are included in the series, and the audience can ask questions online and receive answers."

Since the HITSP webinar series began in June 2008, a total of more than 2,000 people have attended these online educational sessions.

Getting the HITSP word out: HITSP, through the webinars, wanted to reach new audiences, including users and implementers that were not, and might never be, involved in HITSP development, but would be vital to wide-spread adoption of the HITSP harmonized standards. Avoiding HITSP, government and standards jargon, the presenters deliver material in more general language focusing on HITSP products and implementations rather than the intricacies of the HITSP process.

"We even included a developing story line (Steve's Story) to maintain interest and personalize the need for the adoption of HITSP interoperability specifications to improve healthcare in America," said Virginia Lorenzi, co-chair of the HITSP-ECO working group developing the webinars. Ms. Lorenzi is Senior Technical Specialist, FCG Management Services, New York Presbyterian Hospital.

The ECO Committee marketed the webinars to business and organizational contacts to heighten HITSP's exposure. The series highlighting Interoperability Specifications, focused on facilitating

wide-spread understanding and adoption of HITSP harmonized standards. The real-world webinars series provided case studies on actual HITSP implementations to show audience how HITSP is already implemented and useful at healthcare organizations and Health Information Exchanges. This approach has helped ensure that the webinars attract a broad audience.

"When we started to work on HITSP education and outreach, developing a first round of free basic HITSP webinars quickly became a major priority for us," said Walter Suarez, MD, MPH, co-chair of the HITSP ECO Committee. Dr. Suarez is Director of Health IT Strategy for Kaiser Permanente. "Over the past year, we have delivered 15 webinars, including HITSP Real-World Stories and our first virtual HITSP Town Hall meeting, with a total of more than 2,000 people attending these sessions. I think this level of response is one of the most telling aspects of the success of this program, and the value it provides to the industry."

The next HITSP webinar is on Aug.27 from 2-3:30 p.m. EDT with John Halamka, MD, MPH, HITSP Chair, conducting the second e-Town Hall Meeting.

 [Register HERE](#)

- [ARCHIVES of 2009 HITSP webinar series](#)
- [ARCHIVES of 2008 HITSP webinar series](#)

Joan Duke and Virginia Lorenzi contributed to the article, "HITSP Webinars: Educating New Audiences on Standards Development."

What's New at HITSP?

HITSP Releases [Requirements Analysis Document on the Clinical Research Value Case for Public Comment](#)

On Thursday, July 30, HITSP announced the release of the Requirements, Design and Standards Selection (RDSS 144) document for public comment.

Both the document and the HITSP comment tracking system can be accessed from the [HITSP Web site](#). The public comment period ends at close of business, Friday Aug. 28. HITSP is encouraging commentators to submit their comments by Monday, Aug. 24, if possible, for disposition during the Aug. 25-27 the face-to-face meeting of the HITSP Technical Committees. However, comments will be accepted until the public comment period deadline of Friday, August 28.

Did you know? The HITSP Tiger Teams developed specifications in just 90 days in response to EHR-centric components of the stimulus legislation? Read the new release below for more information on this accomplishment.

HITSP Approves New Interoperability Specifications in Line with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

New York (July 23, 2009) - The [Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel](#) (HITSP) is pleased to announce that it has approved the following specifications at its July 8, 2009, panel meeting in Arlington, Va.

HITSP in the Media

The HITSP Web site provides numerous updates on HITSP activities. Below are two news stories from the **HITSP July clipping report**, a monthly update that compiles most news articles on HITSP that appeared in trade and news magazines, newspapers and blogs. Visit [HITSP in the Media](#) on the HITSP Web site to see what has been written about HITSP and its ongoing standards harmonization efforts.

[HITSP Approves Interoperability Specs](#) (from a trade publication)

The Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel has approved four interoperability specifications to support information exchange requirements under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

from *Information Management* - Jul 28, 2009

[Who/What Are the National HIT Organizations?](#) (from a blog)

...HITSP): provides a consultative role to the HIT Standards Committee. National eHealth Collaborative (NeHC): developing a national prioritization process to advance interoperability for healthcare IT adoption. Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT): Health IT (HIT) certification organization.


from *Healthcare & Technology* - Jul 20, 2009

Webinars

Mark Your Calendar - HITSP Webinar Series

August 27- HITSP eTown Hall II with John Halamka

Come back for the second HITSP Town Hall online gathering from 2 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern on Aug. 27. This Town Hall e-meeting will provide an insightful overview from HITSP Chair John Halamka, MD, of all things HITSP, so be sure to put this date on the calendar.

Look for more webinar information on the registration page on the [HITSP Web site](#). Participation in any of the HITSP webinars is complimentary, but advance registration is required. [Register now](#) by clicking on the  [Register HERE](#) link that appears with the webinar description.

Sept. 10 – Medication Management Real World Sites

2-3:30 p.m. Eastern

Check the [HITSP website](#) to register for this September webinar.

[View the webinar schedule](#)

[Listen to previous HITSP webinars](#)

HITSP FAQ – HITSP Objectives

Readers of *HITSP News* find information in the newsletter about HITSP initiatives and programs, but what about the organization's overall objectives? The [HITSP objectives](#) appear below with recognition of the additional work completed by the HITSP TIGER Teams from mid-April to mid-July when it [reprioritized its 2009 work](#) to provide greater focus on provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

HITSP Objectives

- To serve and establish a cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors to achieve a widely accepted and useful set of standards that will enable and support widespread interoperability among healthcare software applications in a nationwide health information network for the United States.
- To harmonize relevant standards in the healthcare industry to enable and advance interoperability of healthcare applications, and the interchange of healthcare data, to assure accurate use, access, privacy and security, both for supporting the delivery of care and public health
- To facilitate the efforts of Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) to maintain, revise or develop new standards as required to support the HITSP specifications

Message from the Chair – Dr. John Halamka – July 31, 2009

Folks:

The HIT Standards Committee and its workgroups continue to refine their deliverables to specify the content, vocabulary, and transmission standards, leveraging all the HITSP Capabilities and Services. For details see my blog:

<http://geekdoctor.blogspot.com/2009/07/next-steps-for-hit-standards-committee.html>

There are gaps being identified in the areas of consumer preferences, lab ordering, and quality data types. These will be discussed as part of the upcoming face to face Technical Committee/Tiger Team meeting. HITSP will continue to support ARRA, ONC, and all stakeholders by filling these gaps, thereby demonstrating the ongoing importance of standards harmonization activities.

If you have questions or concerns, please email me at jhalamka@hms.harvard.edu.

[Read John Halamka's blog](#)

Life as a Healthcare CIO

Calendar – Dates to Remember

[Health IT Policy Committee](#)

Thursday, Aug. 14
Holiday Inn Capitol
Washington, D.C.

[Health IT Standards Committee](#)

Thursday, Aug. 20
Holiday Inn Capitol
Washington, D.C.

[2009 HITSP Meetings](#)

August 25-27 - Technical Committee Meetings (Hilton Garden Inn Chicago O'Hare Airport, Des Plaines, Ill.)

September 8 - HITSP Board meeting (teleconference)

September 10 – HITSP Webinar – Medication Management Real-World Sites

September 15 - HITSP Panel meeting (Sheraton National, Arlington, Va.)

December 1 - HITSP Board meeting (teleconference)

December 15 - HITSP Panel meeting (Sheraton National, Arlington, Va.)

HITSP depends on the participation of volunteer experts from across the healthcare enterprise.

Contact hitsp@ansi.org for more information on becoming a volunteer for HITSP.

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