

Second Health Information Technology Resource Teach-In

Preparing Underserved and Communities of Color for Health IT and EHR Adoption: *Meaningful Use, What's in it for you?*

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Introduction

The Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc. (SHIRE) and the California Endowment are sponsoring the Second Health Information Technology (HIT) Resource Teach-In at the **California Endowment Conference Center for Healthy Communities in Los Angeles, California, on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.** The title of this conference is *“Preparing Underserved and Communities of Color for Health IT and EHR Adoption”*, and the theme is *“Meaningful Use, What’s in it for you?”*

The conference will inform participants about the opportunities, benefits and challenges of adopting and utilizing electronic health records (EHRs) that comply with meaningful use regulations under consideration or promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Additionally, conference participants will receive information about innovative uses of HIT among the underserved and in communities of color, as well as guidance on suggested methods to access funding/resources to support EHR implementation, to navigate EHR adoption and compliance. Other Teach-In co-sponsors include the Consumer’s Union, National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT) and the National Partnership for Women and Families.

Goal

Our goal is to contribute to the elimination of health disparities, by improving health care quality, encouraging the adoption of EHRs and personal wellness strategies, and providing support for the development and advancement of an HIT workforce in underserved communities and communities of color. Specifically, we plan to inform and empower providers, consumers and the HIT workforce continuum, as well as other representatives of communities of color and other underserved populations to become active participants and make informed decisions that will better enable them to implement EHR adoption. We seek to ensure that representatives from these groups receive the information they need to benefit fully from HIT-related resources, opportunities and advances.



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Teach-In Participation

The first Teach-In was an enormous success, with more than 135 participants attending from around the country. They participated in workshops aimed at informing providers, consumers/consumer advocates/elected officials, and vendors of possibilities regarding health information technology. **Forty percent** of the Teach-In participants were represented by providers from independent practices, group practices, health systems. Based on the success of our kick-off Teach-In, we are expecting to attract 100-130 participants from the healthcare industry, public sector, academic institutions and communities from California and other parts of the nation. At least **40%** of our Teach-In participants are expected to be providers. Other Teach-In participants will include:

- Solo practitioners
- Allied health professionals
- Health policy analysts
- Representatives of HIT/EHR companies
- Insurance companies
- Professional organizations representing providers
- Practice administrators
- Elected officials
- Community-based organizations
- Foundation representatives
- Federal, state and local government employees
- Independent and group providers
- Nurses and nurse practitioners
- Community/consumer advocates
- Faith-based organizations
- Managed care organizations
- Consumers
- Systems providers

Objectives

- Inform and give guidance to health care providers serving communities of color and other underserved populations about the process of adopting and using EHRs in a meaningful way, including implementation timetable, incentive scale, penalties, and proposed requirements/qualifications needed for their full participation;
- Educate and empower community-based organizations, consumer advocates, and consumers from underserved communities and communities of color, about current policies and initiatives which warrant their active participation and address the successes and challenges of fully utilizing and benefitting from HIT such as personal health records (PHRs), EHRs and health information exchanges (HIEs);
- Highlight the health IT workforce needs and gaps in underserved communities and communities of color, specifically addressing the necessary steps to be taken by public/private/educational sectors to ensure the continual support for HIT training programs and curriculums in an ever evolving health IT industry;
- Inform other stakeholders of the benefits of health IT use in underserved populations and communities of color, and among those who care for them;
- Equip conferees with practical skills and tools to help them adopt and fully utilize EHR systems from which they and their patients can truly benefit..

