



Federal, State and Industry Leaders Turn Out for National Health IT Week 2008

National Health IT Week 2008 convened in Washington, DC June 9-13, bringing together healthcare stakeholders from across the nation in a unifying call to action for the advancement of health information technology (HIT) adoption with “One Voice, One Vision.”

With 76 partners representing the full spectrum of healthcare interests and the active involvement of more than 25 members of Congress, state government officials and heads of leading HIT organizations on the Honorary Steering Committee, National Health IT Week bore witness to an unprecedented collaboration of public and private healthcare stakeholders, all focused on encouraging accelerated adoption of HIT and raising awareness of the pivotal role it can play in transforming the nation’s health system.

National Health IT Week (www.healthitweek.org) is a collaborative forum during which key healthcare constituents—vendors, provider organizations, payers, pharmaceutical/biotech companies, government agencies, industry/professional associations, research foundations, and consumer protection groups—work together to elevate national attention to the necessity of health IT adoption.

A primary goal of National Health IT Week is facilitating an open dialogue between stakeholders and congressional leaders on the significant impact legislation can have the advancement of HIT. That goal was evident throughout the week’s activities. It was also the focal point of the Capitol Hill Press Conference on June 10, featuring (in order of appearance):

- Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Co-chair, 21st Century Health Care Caucus
- Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA), Co-chair, 21st Century Health Care Caucus
- Aneesh Chopra, Secretary of Technology for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Co-chair, National Health IT Week Honorary Steering Committee
- Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA), Co-chair, New Democratic Health Care Taskforce
- Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA)
- Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-GA)
- Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS)
- Rep. Tom Price (R-GA)
- Rep. Hilda L. Solis (D-CA)
- Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
- Mark Leavitt, Chair, Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT)
- Carla Smith, FHIMSS, CNM, Executive Vice President, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
- Nancy Davenport-Ennis, Founding Executive Director, National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF)
- Charles W. Jarvis, Assistant Vice-President Healthcare Industry Services and Government Relations, NextGen Healthcare Information Systems, on behalf of HIMSS Electronic Health Record Vendors Association (EHRVA)
- John C. Wade, Vice President & CIO, Saint Luke’s Health System, on behalf of the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)
- Ruth Perot, Executive Director and CEO, Summit Health Institute for Research and Education (SHIRE)

National Health IT Week also included a series of individually planned and hosted conferences and meetings centered on raising awareness of the beneficial impact of HIT and coincided with several partner events. Notable activities included HIMSS Advocacy Day, the Long-Term Care Health Information Technology Summit, Telehealth Leadership Conference, the Seventh Annual Center for Information Therapy Conference, Capitol Hill Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare

Informatics Technology Showcase, and the launch of the Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved: A Public Private Partnership for a Healthier America, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HIMSS, SHIRE, and Apptis, Inc.