



HIMSS10: Innovation with Effective Health IT Solutions

The 2010 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition, March 1-4 in at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, brings together healthcare IT professionals, clinicians, healthcare executives, and vendors from around the world to learn about effective health IT solutions. COACH: Canada's Health Informatics Association and ITAC Health support HIMSS10 as collaborators.

World-class speakers, interoperability on a broad scale, a critical portal for knowledge exchange, cutting-edge healthcare IT products and powerful networking opportunities are hallmarks of this industry-leading conference. Education sessions feature keynote presentations, Views from the Top, e-sessions, roundtable discussions, pre-conference workshops, symposia and more.

COACH Session

Be sure to take in the "People - Your Most Valuable Asset in Challenging Times" session from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. March 3. COACH Board members **Mike Barron**, CEO, Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information and **Neil Gardner**, CIO, Saskatchewan Health, will share their "been there, done that" expertise to focus on strategies and solutions for managing health informatics (HI) human resources in an increasingly complex environment and offer practical, real-life examples and data. **Mike Rigo**, also a COACH Board member and President, D3EH Inc., will moderate this session. The learning objectives are:

- examining the key findings from Canada's new national study on current and future supply and demand trends for HI human resources;
- applying HR planning tools in a HI organization;
- discussing the HR skill and supply impacts of implementing electronic health records and health information exchanges;
- applying tactics for recruiting, retaining and training different groups of professionals

Exhibit Floor

The HIMSS10 exhibit floor, with interactive demonstrations from 900+ leading health IT vendors, also features the Interoperability Showcase, which highlights the real-world benefits of interoperable patient data exchange, as attendees create and manage their own electronic health records across multiple healthcare settings.

CPHIMS-CA Exams

This will also be an excellent opportunity to write the CPHIMS-CA Exams, offered March 2 and 3. Pre-registration is required through HIMSS by **Feb. 12**.

Networking opportunities in and around the Georgia World Congress Center include the Communities Open House, special interest group meetings, exhibitor-hosted events, health IT venture fair and 5K fun run/1 mile walk. HIMSS10 is the place to network and connect with 25,000+ industry leaders and other professionals. Visit www.himssconference.org for complete details.

COACH and ITAC Health members enjoy a preferred HIMSS10 registration rate.

All are invited to attend the Annual Canadian Reception @ HIMSS 2010 will be held on Monday, March 01, 2010 at the Omni Hotel from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM – visit www.itac.ca/health for information about sponsoring the event.

Now that you **KNOW**... Updated information on the H1N1 Influenza Pandemic Surveillance Project

Another EMR Company Completes Work to Allow Their Clients to Join in the Surveillance Activities

As reported in our last issue, the CMA, along with the support of ITAC Health, has been working with Public Health Agency of Canada on enhancing H1N1 surveillance efforts throughout the country. The project will demonstrate the power of an EMR in primary care settings and will demonstrate the role of EMR vendors as important partners in responding to the clinical needs of the Canadian health care system.

Optimed Software, has recently announced that they have enabled the automated influenza reporting for its clients. They have implemented a data collection template to allow physicians to quickly and effectively collect relevant data on H1N1 and other influenza like illnesses. This interface has been developed and implemented free of charge for all Accuro users to assist Health Canada with influenza tracking. Optimed has also deployed the functionality to allow clinics electronically submit the data to Health Canada through an upload they can do as often as daily. The information that Health Canada collects is anonymous, including the age of the patient as well as information about the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment plan. For privacy reasons, the only location information collected is that of the practice making the report. Among other initiatives this information is useful in tracking the progress of H1N1 and the effectiveness of efforts to contain the outbreak.

"Surveillance is a critical element of Canada's pandemic plan, and our response the H1N1 flu virus outbreak. Currently, PHAC is exploring with front line physicians and national partners a pilot surveillance project to track in real time shifts in pandemic influenza severity and associated risk factors with the help of non-identifying surveillance information from electronic medical records at sentinel sites.", said Dr. Tom Wong of the Public Health Agency of Canada. "This sentinel surveillance tool will be used to inform the public health response to the current H1N1 influenza pandemic to help reduce the impact of this outbreak."

EMR Companies that are interested in participating in the project can contact Elaine Huesing at [ITAC Health – ehuesing@itac.ca](mailto:ehuesing@itac.ca) – for more information.