

# The Indian Health Service, Electronic Health Records, Health Information Exchange and Meaningful Use

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# IHS Overview

- Federal Agency in HHS, provides direct and contracted care to American Indian and Alaska Native people (1.9 million lives) from 564 Federally recognized tribes in 37 states.
- IHS operates 29 hospitals, 59 health centers, and 28 health stations
- Tribal programs operate 16 hospitals, 237 health centers, 93 health stations, and 166 Alaska village clinics; there are 43 Tribal programs in CA
- 34 Urban Indian programs as well

# EHR in IHS

- IHS is both a Vendor and Consumer of EHR technology
- Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS)
  - Legacy system since 1984, common roots with VistA in VA
  - Comprehensive – Registration through Billing, including EHR and ancillary clinical packages, e.g. Pharmacy, Laboratory, Immunization, population health, panel and case management, performance assessment, etc.

# EHR in IHS

- RPMS is used at all Federal IHS facilities and most Tribal/Urban programs.
  - Nearly 95% of IHS patient population is served by RPMS
  - RPMS EHR is implemented at all Federal facilities and many Tribal/Urban programs – about 220 in all to date
- RPMS was certified by CCHIT under 2007 Ambulatory EHR criteria
- Certification for Meaningful Use
  - Gap analysis and development are underway
  - Will certify as Ambulatory and Inpatient EHR

# Health Information Exchange

- Immunization Data Exchange with States
- Reference Laboratory Interfaces
- Joslin Vision Network
- Electronic Prescribing
- ILI and Other Reportable Conditions
- Nationwide Health Information Network

# Meaningful Use in Indian Country

- Meaningful Use is NOT an IT activity
- Gap analysis between MU criteria (Hosp and EP) and current practice, as well as current documentation and reporting capabilities
- Development under way as needed for functional gaps and performance measures
- Broad-based informational and training activities under way as well – presentations, web pages, “MU calculators”, etc.
- “MU Coordinators” at all IHS Area Offices and many facilities

# RPMS Outside of IHS

- RPMS software is public domain / open source and freely available with certain limitations
- Widely used by Community Health Network of West Virginia (45 clinics, 12% of WV population)
- Currently being implemented at hospitals and clinics across Hawaii and points west (Pacific)
- RPMS is a comprehensive health information system that combines a powerful legacy database with a mixed bag of interface, query, and reporting capabilities
- BUT – RPMS is complicated to set up and maintain, IHS provides no outside support, and the RPMS support “industry” is nascent at best

# Discussion