

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Health Care Quality and Council  
**Massachusetts e-Health Institute and the Health Information Technology Council**  
February 11, 2009

**Massachusetts e-Health Institute**

- The MA e-Health Institute was established under Section 4 of Chapter 305 of the Acts of 2008
  - Formed as part of the MA Technology Collaborative
- Goals:
  - Facilitate implementation and use of electronic health records systems by health care providers
  - Facilitate the creation and maintenance of a statewide interoperable electronic health records network
  - Identify and promote accelerated dissemination in the Commonwealth of emerging health care technologies that are expected to improve health care quality and lower health care costs
- Main Responsibilities:
  - Prepare and annually update a statewide electronic health records plan with budget that addresses development, implementation, and dissemination
  - Annual report to legislature detailing progress and recommendations

**Health Information Technology Council**

- The HIT Council is comprised of nine members, including:
  - EHS Secretary (Chair)
  - ANF Secretary
  - Executive Director of HCQCC
  - Medicaid Director
  - Five Gubernatorial appointments (including experts in health information technology, law and health policy, and health information privacy and security)
- The Council will advise the Institute on the dissemination of HIT across the Commonwealth, including the deployment of electronic health records systems in all health care provider settings that are networked through a statewide health information exchange
- The Council must approve the Institute's strategic and annual operating plans and all major contracts

## **e-Health Institute Fund**

- The e-Health Institute Fund provides funding for the Institute and Council's activities
- \$15M in FY09 to advance HIT in state
- Application of funds:
  - Administer grant program to assist health care providers with HIT-related costs
    - The Institute will submit the plan and budget for the application of funds from the E-Health Institute Fund to the HIT Council for its approval
    - Grant recipients shall capture and report certain quality improvement data, in consultation with HCQCC
  - Contract with organizations to support efforts
    - The Institute will consult with the HIT Council regarding the content of any requests for proposals. All resulting contracts must also first be approved by the HIT Council

## **Timeline**

Chapter 305 of the acts of 2008 sets the following dates:

- Submit a report to legislature on or before July 31, 2012 detailing the status of:
  - (i) the implementation and use of electronic health records systems, such as rate of provider participation;
  - (ii) the statewide interoperable electronic health records network and its capacity to exchange health information between and among components of the health system, with special focus on ambulatory care providers;
  - (iii) the security and privacy of health information technology developed and disseminated through activities of the Council; and
  - (iv) the impact of health information technology on health care quality, health outcomes of patients, and health care costs.
- Full implementation of electronic health records systems and the statewide interoperable electronic health records network by January 1, 2015