

Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology

The Complex Infrastructure of Government Efforts to Support the Dispersion of Health Information Technology: The Role of the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT)

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History and Status

- **Sept 2004**: AHIMA, HIMSS, and the Alliance partner to launch CCHIT
- June 2005: Eight organizations add \$325k funding support
- **Sept 2005**: CCHIT awarded 3-year, \$7.5M HHS contract to develop compliance criteria and inspection process
 - Ambulatory EHRs (2006)
 - Inpatient EHRs (2007)
 - Infrastructure and Networks through which EHRs interoperate (2008)
- July 18, 2006: First batch of certified ambulatory EHRs announced

Goals of Product Certification

- Reduce the risks of investing in HIT
- Facilitate interoperability of HIT products
- Enhance availability of adoption incentives
- Ensure that the privacy of personal health information is protected

Development Process

	Gather Data	Develop Criteria	Develop Inspection Process	Pilot Test	Finalize	Launc Certificat Progra	tion
	 Stakeholder priorities 	 Criteria for next year – Functionality 	 Methods Self-attestation Juror 	Call for participants	 Respond to comments 		
	 Availability in vendor marketplace 	 Security/ reliability Interoperability 	observation – Laboratory testing	 Random selection for each market 	 Final adjustments 		
	 Practicality of certification 	 Roadmap for Next year + 1 Next year + 2 	Test scenarios	segment Conduct pilot 	 Commission review and approve 		
Ĩ	Release for public comment	Release for public comment	 Step-by-step test scripts Release for public comment 	Release for public commen – Results – Final criteria – Final test process and scripts – Certification handbook and agreement	• Publish final materials		

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Myths and Realities

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Myth	Reality			
CCHIT is a government agency	 CCHIT is an independent, voluntary, private- sector initiative organized as a limited liability corporation. CCHIT will transition from HHS funding to a self-sustaining model. 			
CCHIT is a standards development organization	 CCHIT develops criteria based on commonly available standards developed by SDOs. 			
Certification could stunt innovation and competition in the HIT marketplace	 Certification is a pass/fail indication that the product meets <u>basic criteria</u> in every area. It provides a baseline above which HIT vendors may innovate and compete. 			
CCHIT will only be certifying EHRs for the physician practice	 Work groups are already developing criteria for inpatient EHR certification. In 2007, the effort will expand to the networks and technology components through which EHRs interoperate. 			