

## HEALTHCARE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### ORGANIZATIONS OF IMPORTANCE

○ | HIMSS® - Healthcare Information Management and Systems Society - <http://www.himss.org>

○ | EHRVA - Electronic Health Records Vendors Association - <http://www.himssehrva.org/>

○ | MGMA® - Medical Group Management Association - <http://www.mgma.com/>

○ | AHIMA - American Health Information Management Association® - <http://www.ahima.org/>

○ | DOQ-IT - Doctor's Office Quality - Information Technology - <http://www.joindoqit.com/>

○ | HL7® - or Health Level 7 - <http://www.hl7.org/>

HIMSS - or Healthcare Information Management and Systems Society - is a premier membership society for healthcare information. It holds what is believed to be the world's largest healthcare convention annually, every February, with approximately 20,000 participants. It performs a number of activities concerning EHRs, not least of which is having organized EHRVA.

EHRVA - or Electronic Health Records Vendors Association - is a HIMSS related organization consisting of over 40 of the top EHR vendors. They state that 90% of all EHRs implemented in this country are sold by EHRVA member companies. It is truly amazing that a few dozen companies which compete fiercely in the open marketplace have meetings in which they discuss architecture, interoperability and other issues of national importance in our nation's attempt to adopt a health information infrastructure. In October 2006 they released the EHRVA Interoperability Roadmap, a 34 page document which carefully describes the various steps required to create a National Health Information Network (NHIN).

MGMA - or Medical Group Management Association - is a membership association with over 15,000 members. It offers American College of Medical Practice Executives, or ACMPE, certification. They offer a wide variety of tools to help medical practice executives manage practices, as well as learn about government initiatives in Washington, D.C. Their annual convention is in the fall.

AHIMA - or American Health Information Management Association - has over 50,000 members and was founded in 1928 in order to improve the quality of medical records. AHIMA

has an annual convention in the fall / winter.

DOQ-IT - or Doctor's Office Quality - Information Technology - is a national initiative promoting the use of Electronic Health Records. The DOQ-IT program is orchestrated through a network of QIOs or Quality Improvement Organizations, one in each state. These QIOs are under contract with CMS and they offer free services to small and medium sized medical groups assisting them in choosing and implementing EHRs.

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven (HL7) is an international community of healthcare subject matter experts and information scientists collaborating to create standards for the exchange, management and integration of electronic healthcare information. HL7 promotes the use of such standards within and among healthcare organizations to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of healthcare delivery for the benefit of all. A large part of the nation's health information software's basic information sharing architecture is based upon these standards. It is one of several Standards Developing Organizations (SDO), accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

NAHIT - or The National Alliance for Health Information Technology - was founded in 2002 as a non-profit organization that is focused on the methods of utilizing health information technology to improve medical outcomes.