Indian Health Service
Press Release

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Indian Health Service Electronic Health Records System Receives New Certification

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has been notified that the newest version of the IHS health information system has earned certification by the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT). CCHIT is the national certifying organization for health care information technology (HIT).

The IHS Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) is a comprehensive health information system that supports the patient care and public health mission of IHS. The IHS provides health care to a service population of 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who reside in 35 states. The RPMS Electronic Health Record (EHR) is operational at over 190 facilities nationwide.

CCHIT certification signifies that the new system has been tested and shown to meet a rigorous set of criteria for functionality (what the system does to support health care), interoperability (how it interacts with other systems), and security (how it protects patient information).

"The Indian Health Service is very proud to earn this certification based on industry standards that will benefit our patients in the Indian health system," said IHS Director Robert G. McSwain. "The IHS RPMS system is a critical part of IHS's patient-centered, compassionate, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate model of care."

RPMS has been the IHS health information solution since the early 1980s. For more than 25 years, RPMS has been instrumental in tracking, improving, and assisting patient care and safety at hundreds of IHS and tribal hospitals, health centers, and clinics.

Development to meet the CCHIT certification criteria began approximately one year ago and included important new features such as electronic prescribing. CCHIT designates RPMS version 2008 as a pre-market conditionally certified product under the 2007 certification criteria for ambulatory (outpatient-focused) EHRs. Full certification will be awarded when the enhancements are implemented in production.

The certification commission is a private nonprofit organization with a public mission is to accelerate the adoption of robust, interoperable health information technology by creating a credible, efficient certification process. . CCHIT was formed in July 2004 by the American Health Information Management Association, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, and The National Alliance for Health Information Technology.

NOTICE TO EDITORS: For additional information on this subject, please contact the IHS public affairs office at 301-443-3593. Additional information about the IHS is available on the IHS website at *http://www.ihs.gov* .