



# *HealthIT*

The Appalachian Regional Commission  
Healthy Families: Healthy Future



APPALACHIAN  
REGIONAL  
COMMISSION



# Agenda

- HIT Background Information
- What / Why HealthIT?
- HIT Pieces and Parts
- Federal Landscape
- How does this fit together?
- EHR Overview

## Regional Context

- ~ 25 Million People
- 205,000 square miles
- 420 Counties across 13 states
- Per capita income 25% lower than US as a whole

# Health Information Technology

“ Health information technology is the circulatory system for the vital organs of health care.”

Dr. David Blumenthal  
Former National Coordinator of  
HIT



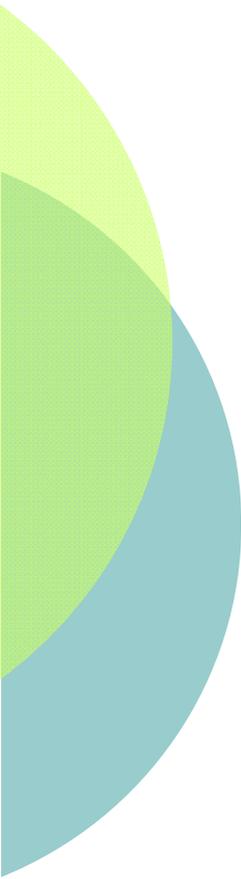
# Health Information Technology

**We have all that is  
necessary to do it  
right!**

**COLLABORATION!**

Dr. Steve Cline  
Assistant Secretary NC DHHS  
N.C. State Coordinator





# HIT Goals

- Improved healthcare quality
- Better health outcomes
  - Individuals
  - Populations
- Control costs
- Better engage health care consumers

# Why HealthIT?

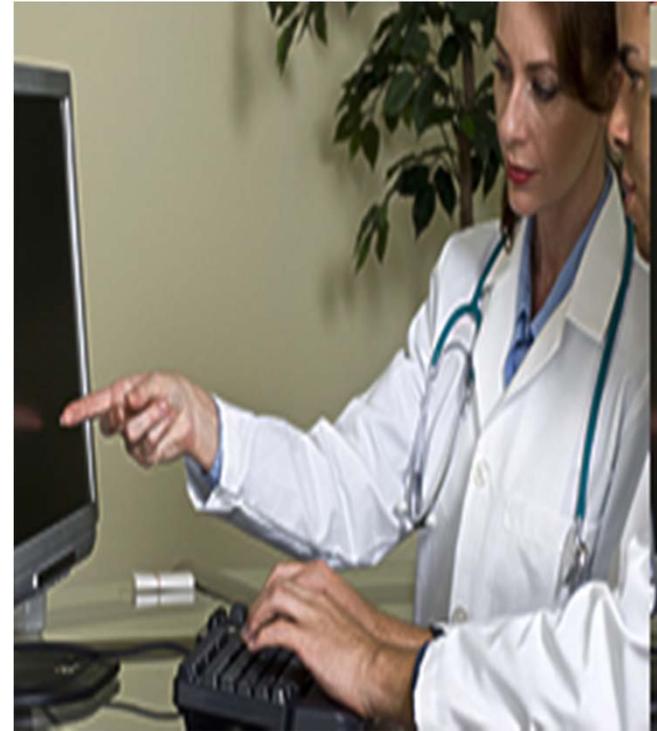
In the Appalachian region as well as the United States, we need to:

- make the health care system more efficient
- expand access to healthcare
- improve the health of individuals and communities

# What is HealthIT

Think for a moment about what is required for a community or a group of organizations to share information...

We have to agree on a language, transport, definition, policy, ability to generate and receive messages, identity, confidentiality, integrity, scalability...



# What is HealthIT?

Health **I**nformation **T**echnology is an assembly of Information Technologies that

- provides information about the health of a patient
- enables improved care coordination
- Enables the exchange of information about a patient between care providers
- improves diagnosis, reduce error, and provide healthcare more efficiently

# General Challenges and Opportunities

- Internet / Technology Access
- Legal / Policy
  - Data Exchange Agreements
- Public Perception
- Organizational Perception

# Appalachian Challenges

- Geographic
- Healthcare System
  - Distance to care
  - Availability of specialized care
  - Trust
- Cultural
  - Self Reliance
  - Religious
- Economic

Citation: *Understanding the Challenges of Reducing Cancer in Appalachia: Addressing a Place-Based Health Disparity Population*

# Major Components of HealthIT

- Personal Health Record (PHR)
- Electronic Health Record (EHR)
- Health Information Exchange (HIE)
  - Collection of cooperating organization (s) to facilitate the exchange of health information between EHRs
  - Regional
  - Statewide

# What are the different pieces?

- Personal Health Record – PHR
  - Health data collected by the individual
- Electronic Health Record – EHR
  - Gets patient data into a system, this is the foundation of many goals in HIT.
- Health Information Exchange
  - Provides a highway for the different EHR systems to exchange data

# Federal Efforts



# Federal HealthIT Focus

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)

ONC is the principal Federal entity charged with coordination of nationwide efforts to implement and use the most advanced health information technology and the electronic exchange of health information.

# Federal HIT Strategy

- Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONC)
- Federal Stimulus Act (ARRA)
- HITECH Component = HIT
- States charged with developing solutions (no national system for all)

# ONC Mission

- Promoting development of a nationwide Health IT infrastructure that allows for electronic use and exchange of information
- Providing leadership in the development, recognition, and implementation of standards and the certification of Health IT products
- Health IT policy coordination
- Strategic planning for Health IT adoption and health information exchange
- Establishing governance for the Nationwide Health Information Network.

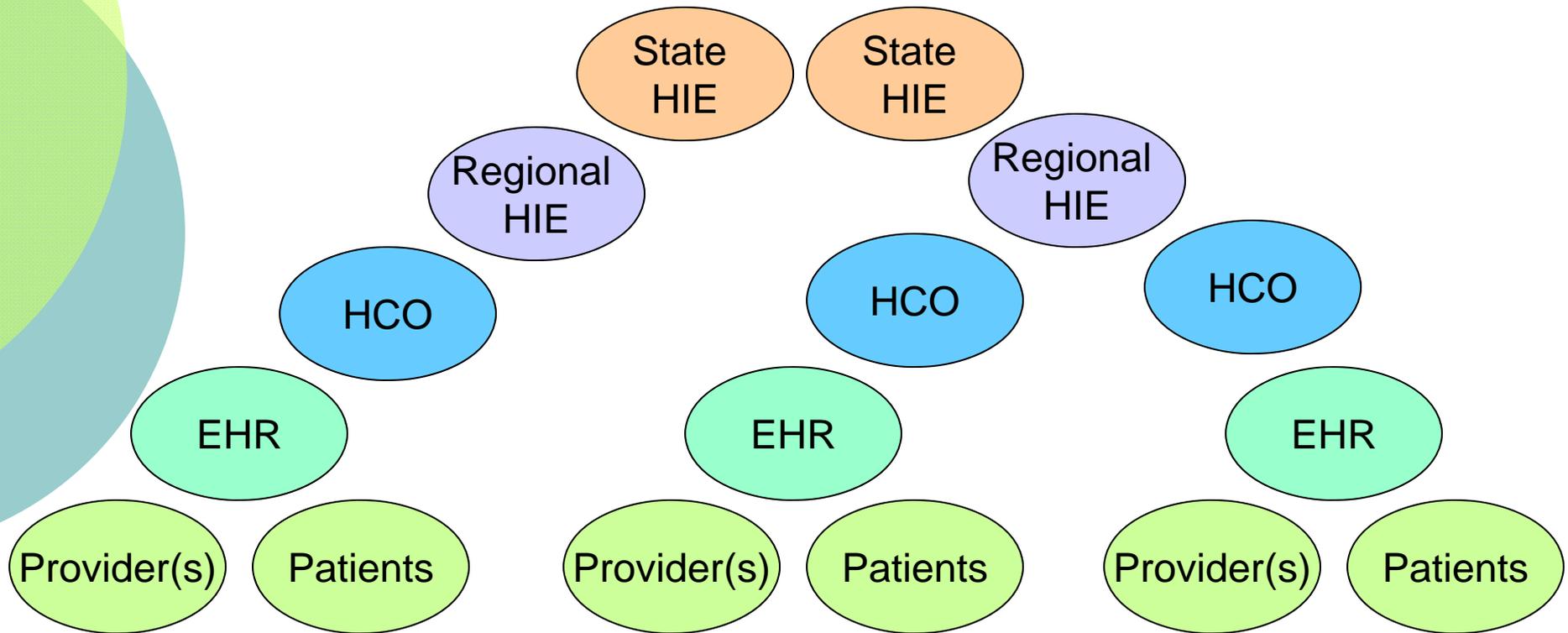
# ONC Programs

- Beacon Community
- State Health Information Exchange
- Regional Extension Centers
- Strategic Health IT Research Projects
- Curriculum Development Centers
- University-Based Training
- Competency Examination
- Workforce Development

# ONC Initiatives

- Cybersecurity
- Innovations
- Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN)
- Federal Health Architecture
- State-Level Health Initiatives
- Adoption
- Clinical Decision Support

# How does this fit together?



# Focus on EHR



# EHR Incentive Program

The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

# Meaningful Use

- The use of a certified EHR in a meaningful manner, such as e-prescribing.
- The use of certified EHR technology for electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of health care.
- The use of certified EHR technology to submit clinical quality and other measures.

# EHR Incentive Programs

## ○ Medicare

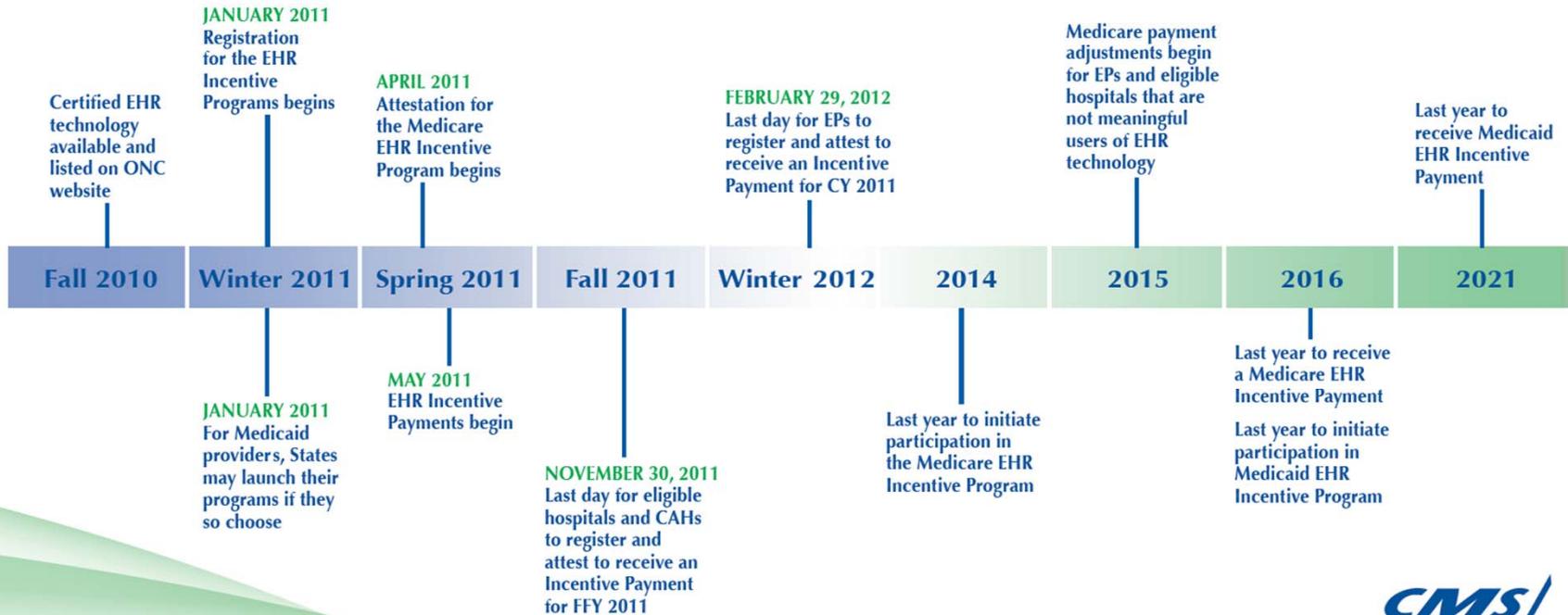
- Can begin now!
- Can receive up to \$44,000 over five years
- Maximum benefit if you start by 2012

## ○ Medicaid

- Varies state by state
- Can receive up to \$63,750 over six years

# CMS Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs

## Milestone Timeline



# Benefits of EHR



# Health Care Reform

- Medical care in the U.S. is expensive
- U.S. lags behind developed nations in certain health measures

Health Information Technology is a key component of addressing the opportunities we face!!!

Citation: *World Health Statistics 2009, World Health Organization*

