

## Special Audio Report Transcript

Headline: HIMSS12 Conference Preps Health Care Industry for Stage 2 of Meaningful Use Program

Reporter/Produced by: Deirdre Kennedy  
Publication: iHealthBeat  
Date posted: February 15, 2012

### Text:

I'm Deirdre Kennedy with a preview of the upcoming HIMSS12 conference in Las Vegas. This is a special report for *iHealthBeat*, a daily news service of the California HealthCare Foundation.

The five-day annual conference offers hundreds of workshops, new product demos and industry networking events -- where attendees can get up to speed on accountable care organizations, cloud computing, ICD-10, mobile health, business and clinical analytics, among other issues. But the main focus will be the forthcoming federal proposed rules for Stage 2 of the meaningful use program. Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society Senior Director of Federal Affairs Tom Leary:

***(Leary): "We recognize that the membership and the community at-large are going to be in need of education and information on how the rules as drafted will impact them and how they're different from the existing Stage 1 program."***

To that end, HIMSS will host several town hall meetings where HHS officials will outline their goals for electronic health records and field questions from attendees. Leary says many HIMSS members are concerned the government will ask for new quality metrics on data collection.

***(Leary): "What we've heard is that eligible professionals or eligible hospitals are interested in one, simplification of the process and two, pointing to metrics that have a standard associated with them and that the government is not just making something new up that will not lead to better quality care."***

One session is dedicated to HHS certification for both vendor products and in-house EHR systems. Events on improving privacy and security of health data are woven throughout the conference. HIMSS Senior Director of Privacy and Security Lisa Gallagher says while most large institutions and hospitals -- and some mid-size institutions -- have security experts, far too many smaller providers are not doing even the basic risk assessments they need to safeguard patient data.

***(Gallagher): "By and large everyone has good intentions, but they are lacking certain things. They don't have anyone on staff who has any security knowledge and they have no resources to conduct a risk assessment and do active risk management. They just don't have it."***

Gallagher says providers often rely too much on their EHR vendors and assume that once they buy certified EHR equipment with built-in security features like audit logs and user authentication their data will be sound.

***(Gallagher): "But you have to actually determine how to implement that for your organization and then manage it. Right?"***

HIMSS is providing toolkits that show users how to conduct basic risk assessments and ways to remediate some of the most common security problems. More than 60% of security breaches occur when patient data are stored on portable devices that are lost or stolen.

***(Gallagher): "We've seen these devices being deployed in health care organizations very rapidly. And a lot of times, their deployment and provisioning is ahead of the organization even having a policy around how to manage it. So we have to point out the issues, get caught up, get the policies and procedures in place, get it in control."***

Those issues will likely be part of a keynote address by National Coordinator for Health IT Farzad Mostashari. Twitter Co-Founder Biz Stone will be giving a keynote on the role of social media in health care. IBM will be showing off its supercomputer Watson of "Jeopardy!" fame. The game show winning computer will demonstrate how it uses natural language to search for clinical diagnosis and treatments. IBM's Chief Medical Scientist Martin Kohn:

***(Kohn): "Watson is truly clinical decision support in a very specific definition. Watson manages huge volumes of information and understands the nature of the question to be addressed and brings evidence-based suggestions back to the decisionmaker to consider. Watson will not come back and say this is the diagnosis or this is the treatment you ought to use."***

HIMSS will be streaming live simulcasts of keynotes and other major sessions. The conference runs Feb. 20 to Feb 24.

This has been a special report for *iHealthbeat*, a daily news service from the California HealthCare Foundation. If you have feedback or other issues you'd like to have addressed, please email us at [iHB@CHCF.org](mailto:iHB@CHCF.org).  
I'm Deirdre Kennedy, Thanks for listening.

