



## **New ConCert by HIMSS™ Program Takes Interoperability Testing and Certification to Next Level**

*New testing and certification program announced at HIMSS15 to accelerate interoperability of EHRs and HIEs, creating a market-based standard*

CHICAGO (April 12, 2015) – HIMSS announced the launch of the [ConCert by HIMSS™](#), testing and certification program that assures secure and reliable transfer of data among electronic health records, health information exchanges, and health information services providers within and across organizational and state boundaries.

Building on the work of the EHR/HIE Interoperability Workgroup (IWG) and [IHE USA](#), **ConCert by HIMSS** offers a unique, independent seal of approval for EHR, HIE and HIS/EP systems. [ICSA Labs](#) serves as the testing and certification body for this effort.

The new program, unveiled at the 2015 HIMSS Annual Conference & Exhibition in Chicago, addresses a key obstacle in today's healthcare system: *many IT systems cannot connect with each other, creating the need for costly and custom interfaces to be built each time systems are interconnected.* Thus, for the greatest impact on the quality of healthcare delivery, IT systems in individual physician practices, hospitals, clinics, labs and radiology centers must seamlessly and easily exchange data. This interchange requires a consistent and standard way of connecting to each other.

**"ConCert by HIMSS** will attest to secure and reliable health information exchange between EHR and HIE products for both Direct and Query-based exchange," said Joyce Sensmeier, RN-BC, MS, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, FAAN, vice president, informatics, HIMSS North America

"This voluntary testing and certification program will increase clarity in the marketplace and create the 'pull' for interoperability that we are lacking today by simplifying the process. Providers will now be able to identify certified interoperable products. And vendors that are certified through this program will have a competitive advantage in the marketplace," added Sensmeier.

"Healthcare providers will now be in a position to expect their health IT vendors to be certified for interoperability. As more and more vendors achieve certification, we will be closer to assuring widespread, interoperable connectivity. We've seen this happen in others sectors of the technology industry. Standards, such as USB and Bluetooth, have been essential to accelerating growth in personal computing, entertainment, and other sectors," said David Whitlinger, Executive Director of New York eHealth Collaborative.

By promoting product certification, these organizations want to assure that healthcare providers buy health IT products that are interoperable with other software products so data can be securely accessed and shared across multiple states and systems. These "interoperability standards" have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT ("ONC"). HIMSS and ICSA Labs will continue to provide feedback from implementations to the national health IT standards-setting initiatives established by ONC.

iPatientCare is the first company to have earned the **ConCert by HIMSS** EHR certification; a total of nine industry leaders are committed to completing certification testing in 2015, including:

[iPatientCare](#) - Booth #2941

[Cerner](#) - Booth #913

[InterSystems](#) - Booth #961

[Corepoint Health](#) - Booth #8115

[MEDfx](#) - Booth #4292

[Greenway Health](#) - Booth #1806

[NextGen](#) - Booth #902

[Infor Healthcare](#) - Booth #6908

[Pulse Systems, Inc.](#)

To achieve certification from ConCert by HIMSS, products must demonstrate rigorous, standards-based interoperability, according to the program's constrained specifications. More information on the ConCert by HIMSS testing and certification program will be available at HIMSS15:

- [HIMSS Interoperability Showcase](#) enables attendees to speak with the ConCert certification experts and learn more about the participating vendors earmarked for certification in 2015. April 13-15, South Building, Hall A, Booth 2084
- [IHE USA Update: Advancing the Adoption of Standards-based Interoperability](#), April 13, 2-2:30 p.m., HIMSS Interoperability Showcase (Booth 2084).  
Speaker: Joyce Sensmeier, Vice President, Informatics, HIMSS North America
- [The Path to Interoperability through Testing and Certification](#), April 14, 3-3:30 p.m., HL7 Exhibition (Booth 3836).  
Speakers: Joyce Sensmeier and Anuj Desai, Vice President, Market Development, New York eHealth Collaborative
- [Interoperability: Your Path Forward](#), April 15, 2:30-3 p.m., HIMSS Interoperability Showcase (Booth 2084).  
Speaker: Sandra L. Vance, senior director, interoperability initiatives, HIMSS North America

**ConCert by HIMSS** includes three programs:

- 1) ConCert by HIMSS EHR™ certifies electronic health record (EHR) systems that enable clinicians to share health information within and across care delivery communities, providing a simplified way for providers to send secure health information directly to trusted recipients, including patients, over the Internet. The certification requires support for both Query-based exchange and DIRECT exchange with the addition of the provider directory.
- 2) ConCert by HIMSS HIE™ certifies health information exchange (HIE) vendor systems that enable clinicians to share health information within and across care delivery communities. This certification requires Query-based exchange.
- 3) ConCert by HIMSS HISP™ certifies health information services provider (HISP) systems with provider directory services that offer a way for providers to send secure health information directly to trusted recipients, including patients, over the Internet. This certification requires DIRECT exchange.

### **ConCert by HIMSS Advisory Committee members sought**

HIMSS is establishing an Advisory Committee to guide the **ConCert by HIMSS** program and set the future direction. HIMSS is seeking key stakeholder representatives and industry thought leaders to serve on the Advisory Committee. The call for participation is open now until May 10.

Go to [www.himssinnovationcenter.org/concert](http://www.himssinnovationcenter.org/concert) to learn more.

Contact [interoperabilityservices@himss.org](mailto:interoperabilityservices@himss.org) with questions about the **ConCert by HIMSS** program.

### **About HIMSS**

HIMSS is a global, cause-based, not-for-profit organization focused on better health through information technology (IT). HIMSS leads efforts to optimize health engagements and care outcomes using information technology. HIMSS is a cause-based, global enterprise producing health IT thought leadership, education, events,

market research and media services around the world. Founded in 1961, HIMSS encompasses more than 52,000 individuals, of which more than two-thirds work in healthcare provider, governmental and not-for-profit organizations across the globe, plus over 600 corporations and 250 not-for-profit partner organizations, that share this cause. HIMSS, headquartered in Chicago, serves the global health IT community with additional offices in the United States, Europe and Asia.

### **About the EHR|HIE Interoperability Workgroup**

The EHR|HIE Interoperability Workgroup is a New York eHealth Collaborative-led coalition of 19 states (representing 52% of the U.S. population), EHR vendors, and HIE vendors. The workgroup was launched in February 2011 to leverage existing standards and develop consistent implementation guides for interoperability between HIE software platforms, and the applications that interface with them. For more information about the workgroup, visit [www.interopwg.org](http://www.interopwg.org).

### **About IHE USA**

IHE USA ([www.iheusa.org](http://www.iheusa.org)) is a 501.c.3 not for profit organization founded in 2010. Its vision is to improve the quality, value and safety of healthcare by enabling rapid, scalable and secure access to health information at the point of care. IHE USA operates as a national deployment committee of IHE International® in order to advance its mission to improve U.S. healthcare by promoting the adoption and use of IHE and other world-class standards, tools and services for interoperability. IHE USA engages all levels of public and private sector participants to test, implement and use standards-based solutions for all health information needs.

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From April 12-16 – HIMSS15 Press Room  
312-528-8212