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For more information, contact:

Anna Orlova, PhD
 Executive Director
 Public Health Data Standards
 Consortium
 410/614-3463
 410/614-3097 (fax)
aorlova@jhsph.edu
<http://www.phdsc.org>

Emily Van Oeveren
 Administrative Coordinator
 Public Health Data Standards
 Consortium
 443/287-0007
 410/614-3097 (fax)
evanoeve@jhsph.edu
<http://www.phdsc.org>

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH A NEW MODULE AT THE PHDSC WEB-BASED RESOURCE CENTER

BALTIMORE, MD June 17, 2009 –Today the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC, Consortium) launched a new module of its Web-based Resource Center on [Health Information Technology \(Health IT\) Standards](#).

The **Health IT Standards Module** consists of 17 web-based pages that provide a wide range of materials on,

- **Health IT Standards Categories** including data and information content standards, information exchange standards, identifiers standards, privacy and security standards, and functional standards, etc.;
- **Health IT Standardization Process** including identifying needs and setting priorities for standards; standards development and maintenance; standards harmonization, trial implementation and certification; and standards adoption;
- **Health IT Standardization Entities** including Standards Development Organizations (SDOs), Data Content Committees, US National Health IT Standardization and Certification entities and Policy Committees; and international Health IT standards organizations.

Each web-page contains an extensive set of links to documents developed by Health IT Standardization Entities and other pertinent resources.

The target audiences for the **PHDSC Health IT Standards Module** are

- **public health and clinical professionals** involved in the development and use of information systems in public health,
- **public health leaders and decision makers** involved in the development of interoperable health information exchanges in their jurisdictions and at the national level,
- **IT professionals** who are working at the local, state and federal public health agencies and clinical settings,
- Electronic Health Record Systems **vendors**.

This Module was developed by the **PHDSC Data Standards Committee** with support from the National Center for Health Marketing, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Grant No.: 1U38HM000455-01

"There is great material here. Our goal is to provide 'one stop shopping' for public health professionals so that they can find out what they need to know about IT standards development and adoption. We expect to maintain these pages through the constant changes and developments that seem to plague the IT standards landscape. IT professionals will also find this resource to be current and useful," said Dr. Noam H. Arzt, co-chairperson of the PHDSC Communications and Outreach Committee and president of HLN Consulting, LLC of San Diego, CA.

"The PHDSC Health IT Standards Module is the only comprehensive source of information on Health IT standards for a non-IT audience. It is targeted to public health and clinical professionals to help them navigate in a complex field of Health IT standards, so they could help vendor's to build standardized interoperable Health IT applications. We will be using this on-line Module as an educational resource for our students at the Johns Hopkins Health Sciences Informatics Program," said Dr. Anna Orlova PHDSC Executive Director and Johns Hopkins faculty.

"This new Module is part of the extensive library of Health IT standards-related resources being provided by the Consortium to the public health community at-large. We invite members of the public health workforce to explore this new resource and to let us know how meaningful and practical it is" said Dr. Walter Suarez, PHDSC President.

The Consortium will maintain and update the Module content to keep public health professionals informed about new advancements on policy and technical aspects of Health IT standard development and adoption.

We would appreciate your feedback regarding this Module. Please forward your comments to Ms. Emily Van Oeveren, PHDSC Web-master at evanoeve@jhsph.edu.

The PHDSC Health IT Standards Module can be accessed <http://www.phdsc.org/standards/health-information-tech-standards.asp>.

Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC) is a national non-profit membership-based organization of federal, state and local health agencies; professional associations; academia; public and private sector organizations; international members; and individuals. The Consortium **promotes** the electronic connectivity between public health and clinical care via interoperable Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems (EHR-S) and the integration of health-related data systems to meet the health data needs of public and private organizations, agencies and individuals; **represents** public health interests and needs in standards development organizations, data content committees, and standards harmonization and external certification bodies; **represents** public health interests and needs on issues of privacy, confidentiality and information security; **identifies** priorities for the new national standards for population health; and **educates** the public health community about standards and the health information technology community about public health. For more information about the Consortium, go to <http://www.phdsc.org>

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