

THIRD HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE TEACH-IN

Preparing Healthcare Providers for Health IT and
EHR Adoption

NAVIGATING Health IT

Introduction

The Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc. (SHIRE) and the Brazilian Business Group are sponsoring the Third Health Information Technology (HIT) Resource Teach-In at the **Embassy Suites (1100 SE 17th Street) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Thursday, October 21, 2010 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm**. The title of this conference is *“Navigating Health IT: Preparing Healthcare Providers for Health IT and EHR Adoption”*. The Teach-In series now provides a regular forum for healthcare providers and professionals, community advocates, public officials, policy experts, and consumers to share challenges, best practices, policy perspectives, and opportunities that support the adoption and implementation of health IT in underserved and communities of color.

This conference will inform healthcare providers about the opportunities, benefits and challenges of adopting and utilizing electronic health records (EHRs) that comply with the Stage 1 meaningful use regulations released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Additionally, health IT experts including the area Regional Extension Center and industry experts, will be available to offer the necessary tools and resources to help advise and guide these providers towards the meaningful adoption and utilization of electronic health records (EHRs). Conference participants will receive information about innovative uses of HIT among the underserved and in communities of color, as well as guidance on suggested methods to access funding/resources to support EHR implementation, to navigate EHR adoption and compliance. Other Teach-In co-sponsors include the Office of Minority Health (OMH), the National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT) and Ingenix.

Goal

Our goal is to contribute to the elimination of health disparities, by improving health care quality, encouraging the adoption of EHRs and personal wellness strategies, and providing support for the development, advancement and engagement of an HIT workforce in underserved communities and communities of color. Specifically, we plan to inform and empower providers, consumers and the HIT workforce continuum, as well as other representatives of communities of color and other underserved populations. We intend to share tools with Teach-In attendees to aid them in becoming active participants and making informed decisions that will better enable them to adopt and use EHRs.



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Teach-In Participation

The last two Teach-Ins were an enormous success, with over 100 participants attending from around the country. They participated in workshops aimed at informing providers, consumers/consumer advocates/elected officials, vendors, and workforce professional of possibilities regarding health information technology. **Forty percent** of those Teach-In participants were represented by providers from independent practices, group practices, health systems. For our Third Teach-In, our participants are expected to include:

• Solo practitioners	• Practice administrators	• Nurses and nurse practitioners
• Allied health professionals	• Independent and group providers	• Managed care organizations
• Insurance companies	• Professional organizations representing providers	

Objectives

- Inform and give guidance to health care providers serving communities of color and other underserved populations about the process of adopting and using EHRs in a meaningful way, including information on CMS regulations, eligibility requirements, implementation timetables, accessing incentives and available funding opportunities, and consequences of non-adoption.
- Inform other stakeholders of the benefits of health IT use in underserved populations and communities of color, and among those who care for them through the presentation of “real-life” case studies.
- Equip conferees with practical skills and tools to help them adopt and fully utilize EHR systems from which they and their patients can truly benefit.

