



The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI)

Sponsored by AMIA & HIMSS

Response to the Succession of the American Health Information Community to the Public/Private Sector

ANI Member organizations

- American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
- American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA)
 - Alabama Society for Clinical Informatics (ASCI)
- Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
 - Boston Area Nursing Informatics Consortium (BANIC)
 - CARING
 - Cerner Nursing Advisory Board (Cerner Corporation)
- Central Savannah River Area Clinical Informatics Network (CIN)
 - Connecticut Healthcare Informatics Network (CHIN)
 - Delaware Valley Nursing Computer Network (DVNCN)
- Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
 - Health Informatics of New Jersey (HINJ)
 - Informatics Nurses From Ohio (INFO)
- MEDITECH Nurse Informatics Program (MEDITECH)
 - Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS)
 - Minnesota Nursing Informatics Group (MINING)
 - NANDA International (NANDA)
- North Carolina State Nurses Association Council on Nursing Informatics (NCNA)
 - Nursing Information Systems Council of New England (NISCNE)
 - Perinatal Information Systems User Group (PISUG)
 - Puget Sound Nursing Informatics (PSNI)
- SNOMED International Nursing Working Group (SNOMED)
- South Carolina Informatics Nursing Network (SCINN)
- Utah Nursing Informatics Network (UNIN)

September 10, 2007

Robert M. Kolodner, MD
National Coordinator for Health IT
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: AHIC Successor White Paper Comments
Mary C. Switzer Building
330 C Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20201.

Dear Dr. Kolodner,

The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) is a collaboration of organizations that enables a unified voice for nursing informatics. Nursing informatics is the integration of nursing, its information, and information management with information processing and communication technology, to support the health of people world wide. ANI represents more than 4,000 nurse informaticians and brings together 25 distinct nursing informatics groups in the United States. ANI crosses academia, practice, industry, and nursing specialty boundaries and works in collaboration with the more than 2 millions nurses in practice today.

ANI represents a body of clinical knowledge focused on improving the quality of healthcare delivery, and as such supports the succession of the American Health Information Community (AHIC) to the public/private sector. ANI is recommending the inclusion of nursing representation as a necessary membership entity in the formation of the successor to AHIC. The AHIC successor and the related governance model should require nursing input on the continued creation of an interoperable nationwide health information network to serve the health and well-being of all individuals in the United States. Through ANI, nurse informaticians have the network, and infrastructure to provide the support and expertise to this effort. Fees should not be a barrier to membership, and consideration should be given to offering financial support for volunteer travel and opportunities for remote participation.

Nurses constitute the largest single group of healthcare workers, including experts that serve on interoperability initiatives focused on standards development, standards harmonization, and EHR adoption, as well as certification of EHR systems. Participation in these initiatives includes identifying interoperability issues and barriers, and driving industry to develop and make available standards-based solutions. Further, this profession is active in the education, implementation and integration of information system throughout healthcare organizations including urban, underserved and rural areas. Nursing representation is critical to ensure that patient care delivery and consumers of healthcare are considered in all phases of information system development and adoption.

Through systematic research, nurses have developed classifications of nursing knowledge including taxonomies of labels, defining characteristics, activities and indicators for standards of nursing language and documentation. This research and coding of diagnoses, interventions and outcomes is essential for information system development and implementation and necessary for the successful delivery of nationwide health IT interoperability. One of the defined goals of the AHIC successor is to achieve nationwide stakeholder buy-in; nursing, as the largest sector in the health community, is a vital membership entity in the formation of the successor entity of the American Health Information Community (AHIC) in the public/private sector.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carole A. Gassert

Carole A. Gassert, RN, PhD, FACMI, FAAN
ANI Co-chair (AMIA representative)
4915 St. Elmo Avenue, Suite 401
Bethesda, MD 20814
E-mail: carole.gassert@nurs.utah.edu

Joyce Sensmeier

Joyce Sensmeier MS, RN-BC, CPHIMS,
FHIMSS
ANI Co-chair (HIMSS representative)
230 E. Ohio Street Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60611
E-mail: jsensmeier@himss.org