



## **It's Time to Ask for... your e-Health Record**

*The Alliance for Nursing Informatics includes 30 member organizations and more than 5,000 nurses*

CHICAGO (Sept. 16, 2013) – The second year in a row, the [Alliance for Nursing Informatics](#) wants its members to ask for and access their personal health information as part of a collaborative effort to **Ask for Your e-Health Record**. During [National Health IT Week](#): September 16-20, all ANI organizations will join forces to ask their members, nurses and clinical colleagues to reach out for their own digital medical information. “Nurses know that e-health records help them provide the right information to the right people – especially patients and their families – at the point of care. To promote accessible e-health records, nurses like me should request a copy of our own record and, in turn, better manage our own health care” says Mary Wakefield, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The [TEN Steps to Support the ANI eHealth Pledge](#) provides guidance taking the pledge and involving others in the week-long activities. This [pledge](#) for nurses is part of the Consumer Campaign, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), to involve and empower consumers in their health management through the use of information technology.

“This grassroots effort goes to the foundation of quality healthcare by asking nurses, who provide care to so many people in many different healthcare settings, to take the lead by requesting their personal health information,” says Bonnie Westra, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANI Co-chair. “By spreading the word to colleagues and consumers through the Ask for Your e-Health Record campaign, we can help educate the general public on the value of health IT by encouraging them to ask for their own patient health information.”

The Ask for Your e-Health Record campaign is a social media campaign designed to encourage conversations, raise awareness and accelerate the overall interest in the pledge and related activities. “Nurses’ participation is crucial to this campaign because they touch every



kind of patient seen in every venue of care and have traditionally served a patient advocacy role. So when nurses get experience in managing their own health using IT, they can share their firsthand experience and knowledge with the patients and families they serve, and a big impact could quickly be made” says Judy Murphy, RN, FACMI, FHIMSS, FAAN, ANI co-chair deputy national coordinator for programs and policies at ONC.

For more information,

- Download [ANI's pledge](#) to support the ONC's Consumer Health eProgram;
- Take the pledge on [ANI's eHealth Facebook](#) page; or
- Follow the discussion on Twitter at #Ask4YourRecord.

The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI), cosponsored by AMIA & HIMSS, advances nursing informatics leadership, practice, education, policy and research through a unified voice of nursing informatics organizations. We transform health and healthcare through nursing informatics and innovation. ANI is a collaboration of organizations that represents more than 5,000 nurse informaticists and brings together 30 distinct nursing informatics groups globally. ANI crosses academia, practice, industry, and nursing specialty boundaries and works in collaboration with the more than 3 million nurses in practice today. Visit the [ANI website](#) for more information.

###

### [About AMIA](#)

AMIA is the professional home of leading informaticians: clinicians, scientists, researchers, educators, students, and other informatics professionals who rely on data to connect people, information, and technology.

AMIA is the center of action for more than 4,000 health care professionals, informatics researchers, and thought-leaders in biomedicine, health care and science. AMIA is an unbiased, authoritative source within the informatics community and the health care industry. AMIA and its members are transforming healthcare through trusted science, education, and practice in biomedical and health informatics.



## 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 part of HIMSS WorldWide, a cause-based, global enterprise producing health IT thought leadership, education, events, market research and media services around the world. Founded in 1961, HIMSS WorldWide 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 WorldWide, headquartered in Chicago, serves the global health IT community with additional offices in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

###

### **For more information, contact:**

Joyce Lofstrom/HIMSS  
312-915-9237 [jlofstrom@himss.org](mailto:jlofstrom@himss.org)