

Policy, Advocacy, and Community Update FEB 2025



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Policy, Advocacy, and Community Agenda FEB 2025

- **HIMSS Advocacy Priorities 2025**
- **Federal and DC Update**
 - High Interest Items
 - Headlines
 - Upcoming Events
 - By Agency: CMS, FDA, CDC, ONC, DC
- **What's Coming Up**

HIMSS Advocacy Priorities

1. **Advancing cybersecurity measures for healthcare**

- a. Funding for prevention, risk management, analysis, and mitigation
- b. Education programs to expand the cybersecurity workforce

2. **Responsible use of AI in healthcare** focusing on key areas:

- a. Policy Guardrails
- b. Feasibility Testing and Equity Bias Mitigation
- c. Clinician and Consumer Trust
- d. Human Oversight
- e. Data Harmonization

3. **Digital Health Transformation** to include necessary funding and technology distribution, particularly to support patient care

- a. Telehealth and Remote Patient Monitoring
- b. Broadband expansion
- c. Equitable policies that advance the safe, affordable, and ubiquitous adoption for medically underserved populations

4. **Public Health Data and System Modernization**

- a. Proper funding and workforce development to ensure Public Health is an equal partner with traditional clinical care
- b. State, Territory, Local and Tribal (STLT) health entities require a significant investment to maintain the software, hardware, workforce, licensing sustainably, and technical support to transmit vital health data electronically to public health agencies.

Federal Policy High Interest Item – FEB 2025

- **Telehealth Flexibilities:** Congress passed as part of the December 2024 Continuing Resolution a provision that extends most of the COVID-era flexibilities for telehealth appointment reimbursements until March 31, 2025. Not extended and now expired are provisions allowing first dollar coverage for telehealth appointments paid by Health Savings Accounts or High Deductible Health Plans.

CMS Update– Feb 2025 (Uche Anaeto Reporting)

- **Important News Since Last Report:**
 - Dr Mehmet Oz nominated by President Trump as CMS Administrator– Hearings and Senate Confirmations Pending (as of 10 Feb)
- **Upcoming Agency Specific Events:**
 - Feb 7 and Feb 10-13. Endorsement and Maintenance Recommendation Group Meetings on multiple topics
 - April 1, 2025, 1000-430: Navigating CMS: Programs, Policies, Procurements and Partnerships. Seminar with Panelists Columbia MD. In person only. Registration Fee required

ASTP Update– FEB 2025 (Keerti Resapu Reporting)

Important News Since Last Report:

[ASTP Official Announcement – LEAP in Health IT \(FY 2025\)](#): ASTP has issued a **Special Emphasis Notice (SEN) under the LEAP** in Health IT funding opportunity (NAP-AX-22-001), focusing on interoperability, health IT adoption, and technical innovations. Applications close on March 17, 2025, at 12:00 ET.

- **2025 Funding Priorities: FHIR®-based Subscriptions:** Enhance interactivity with third-party applications.
- **TEFCA™ Innovations:** Develop technical approaches to increase adoption of Individual Access Services (IAS).
- **Steven Posnack**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and Principal Deputy National Coordinator for Health IT, now leading ASTP's mission by overseeing federal policy, regulatory development, and public-private initiatives, while advising on HHS-wide technology functions. Dr Micky Tripathy resigned effective Jan 2021 at the start of the Trump administration
- [HHS AI Strategic Plan:](#) Focusing on trustworthy AI development, democratization of AI technologies, and workforce empowerment. Published in January 10, 2025.
- **Federal Health IT Coordination:** Aligning policies and regulatory frameworks to enhance EHR usability, price transparency, and data interoperability.

Upcoming Agency Specific Events:

- [Interoperability Standards Workgroup – Feb 11,2025](#)
- [Health IT Advisory Committee – Feb 13,2025](#)
- [Interoperability Standards Workgroup – Feb 18,2025](#)
- [Interoperability Standards Workgroup – Feb 25,2025](#)
- [Interoperability Standards Workgroup – Mar 4,2025](#)

FDA Update– FEB 2025 (Sneha Patel Reporting)

Important News Since Last Report:






- Sara Brenner, M.D., M.P.H. named Acting Commissioner, FDA (Jan. 23, 2025)
- Dr Marty Makary nominated by President Trump as FDA Commissioner. Hearings and confirmation are pending
- FDA released the “IT Operating Plan for Fiscal Years 2024-2027”

Upcoming Agency Specific Events:

- None currently
- HHS-wide restrictions on external communications still in effect as of the date of this report

IT STRATEGY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Table 3. Advancing Public Health Outcomes Enabled by Technology, Powered by Data

	Create a Shared OneFDA Ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enhance Communication and Collaboration▪ Promote Transparency▪ Optimize Investments▪ Strengthen Governance
	Strengthen IT Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provide Scalable and Efficient Infrastructure Offerings▪ Accelerate Cloud Adoption▪ Ensure Service Availability▪ Implement Zero Trust Approach
	Modernize Enterprise Services and Capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increase Business Alignment▪ Scale Operations▪ Increase Digital Maturity▪ Improve Customer Experience▪ Modernize FDA Cybersecurity Defenses▪ Reduce Technology Debt
	Share Data for Mission Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enhance Data Governance▪ Foster OneFDA Data Literacy▪ Improve Data Visibility and Accessibility▪ Enable Advanced Data Analytics▪ Enhance Secure Data Exchange
	Adopt AI and Mission-Driven Innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Balance Policy and Technology Value▪ Ensure Responsible Use of Innovations▪ Provide Proactive Thought Leadership▪ Foster Innovation
	Cultivate Talent and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Instill OneFDA Mindset▪ Attract and Retain Talent▪ Hire and Develop Resilient Leaders▪ Develop Skills for the Future of Work

CDC Update– FEB 2025 (Deepali Pushpal Reporting)

Latest News:

- Former House of Representatives Member (R-FL) Dr. Dave Weldon nominated for the role of CDC Director by President Trump – hearings and Senate confirmation vote not scheduled as of Feb 10
- Limited additional information available due to HHS-wide external communications restrictions issued Jan 21 Jan 2025 and not lifted at the time of this writing

Upcoming Agency Specific Events:

➤ **American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) National Meeting**

Date: April 28 – May 1, 2025

Location: Spokane, Washington

➤ **National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)**

NIIW is a yearly observance held in April, highlighting the importance of protecting children two years and younger from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Date: April 21 – 28, 2025

➤ **Veterinary Student Day 2025**

Event Agenda: Presentations by CDC and non-CDC veterinary speakers showcasing the many roles of veterinarians in public health. This year's theme will be “**Public Health Vets: All Paws on Deck!**”

Date: January 27, 2025; Time: 7:15 AM - 5:00 PM ET

Location: Atlanta Georgia, 30329

➤ **ACIP Meeting** (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices)
ACIP holds three regular meetings each year to review scientific data and vote on vaccine recommendations.

Date: February 26-27, 2025

Location: Atlanta, Georgia and virtually

DC Update– FEB 2025 (Shreya Prasanna Reporting)

Important News Since Last Report:

- D.C.'s United Medical Center 'in the process of closing' with layoffs coming.
Source:

Washington Business Journal, Feb 6, 2025

- Mayor Bowser announces on Feb 6 that Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center GW Health will open on April 15.
 - Cedar Hill will be the first full-service hospital in DC to open in over 20 years, offering 136 beds, trauma and emergency departments, maternal health services, and a 500-car garage.
 - The \$434.4 million facility will integrate with George Washington Hospital and local urgent care centers, enhancing clinical care and providing community-focused services.

Upcoming Agency Specific Events:

- None noted for this report

What's Coming Up

Feb 12 (8-1130): MD HIMSS Education Event: Marriottsville MD. Innovations in HCD, A Spotlight on Telehealth in Maryland. Registration fee required.

Mar 3-6: HIMSS International Conference: Las Vegas, NV. Registration fee required.

Mar 3-6: AMSUS Annual Meeting: National Harbor, MD. Registration fee required. In-person only.

March 17-19: CMS Quality Conference: Baltimore, MD. No registration fee. Registration required.