



June 11, 2009 - The [Alliance for Nursing Informatics](#), a collaboration of organizations that enables a unified voice for nursing informatics that represents more than 5,000 nurse informaticists and works in collaboration with the nearly 3 million nurses in practice today, submitted comments in response to the Federal Register Notice and Request for Comments announcing the draft description of the program for establishing **Health IT Regional Extension Centers** to assist providers seeking to adopt and become meaningful users of health information technology, as authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. No. 111-5) (ARRA).

The comments included the **following key points** that should be leveraged in order to further the goals and core purpose of the HIT Research Center and Regional Extension:

- Leverage informatics nurses and other healthcare informatics professionals
- Maintain a patient-centered approach and address the needs of the consumer
- Utilize a multi-disciplinary, multi-setting approach
- Implement recommendations of the [TIGER Initiative](#) (Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform) for preparing the workforce
- Clearly articulate the metrics for success

Nurses constitute the largest single group of healthcare workers, including experts that serve on national committees and interoperability initiatives focused on standards and terminology development, standards harmonization, and electronic health record (EHR) adoption, as well as certification of EHR systems. Further, nurses are active in the research, education, implementation, integration and optimization of information systems throughout the healthcare system. In this spirit ANI offered these comments to positively move forward the HIT agenda for all stakeholders.

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