



MITS News

Your link to all things MITS

May 2008, Issue 2

A letter from John Corlett, Ohio Medicaid Director

You've probably heard many statements about the benefits and improvements that MITS will offer to Medicaid consumers, providers and other key stakeholders. In this month's edition, I would like to provide a brief overview of some of these benefits. This is by no means a complete list, but should highlight some of the exciting opportunities to come.

Once it is fully operational in October 2010 MITS will include the following:

- Improved integration of separate Medicaid information systems
- More timely access to Medicaid data and increased ability to develop business intelligence reports
- Internet (Web-based) system for claims submission, prior authorization of services, provider enrollment, document management, and verification of Medicaid claims and consumer eligibility status
- Automation of many manually developed reports and functions
- Ability to send alerts directly to providers and consumers for such things as Healthchek exams, immunizations, lead screening, and preventive medical tests
- A clinical claims editor capable of tracking utilization patterns for certain health care services and informing future policy changes
- Case management coordination across delivery systems

These are just a few of the benefits we anticipate with the development and implementation of MITS and we look forward to the opportunities ahead.

interChange: The Foundation for Ohio's MITS

interChange is the core Medicaid management information system (purchased by ODJFS from vendor, EDS) as the foundation for Ohio's MITS application, providing fundamental business functions and information needed to manage Ohio Medicaid.

interChange is a proprietary system that has been adapted for use by Medicaid programs in Indiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Pennsylvania. It will be customized for Ohio's Medicaid business needs. ODJFS staff are working with vendor, EDS, to develop Ohio's version of interChange by cataloging current business processes and technical requirements and then reconfiguring them into a desired state through iterative "joint application design" (JAD) sessions. These processes will assure that interChange and affiliated systems will meet Ohio's required technical capabilities.

Independent Verification & Validation

Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) is a specialized type of project auditing that runs concurrent with project development to identify problems and propose solutions before the project is operational. IV&V is most commonly used in the development of large information technology projects such as Ohio's MITS. Numerous corporations and governmental entities (NASA, HUD, FAA, IBM) have used IV&V to add value to their IT projects. As the name implies, the IV&V function is performed by an external, independent body with the business and technical expertise unique to the specific project.

The project plan for Ohio's MITS includes an IV&V function to assist in assuring that the MITS project is able to meet intended business and technical requirements and that development and implementation occur on time and on budget. Through a competitive bid process in April 2007, ODJFS selected CSG as the vendor to perform the IV&V function for the MITS project. Ten CSG staff are working with ODJFS to use the IV&V process on ten areas of focus. For each of these topic areas, CSG staff will develop initial assessments, periodic progress reports and final reports. In addition, CSG staff will identify any unanticipated problem areas related to MITS development and will raise them for problem resolution.

Members of the CSG team, headed by Project Manager Deneen Omer, are participating in the MITS design, development, implementation and business transformation activities and will continue doing so until the project's completion. Questions related to the IV&V function may be referred to the MITS mailbox at MIT@jfs.ohio.gov

MIT S Q & A

Q I am confused about acronyms used to describe the new Medicaid information technology system. Sometimes it is called MMIS and other times it is called MITS. Are these terms interchangeable or are they just different ways to describe the same thing?

A Acronyms can be confusing (especially when they aren't spelled out).

Let's start with MMIS. Since 1972, the federal government has required state Medicaid programs to develop mechanized claims processing and information retrieval systems that meet Federally accepted standards. These systems are called Medicaid Management Information Systems or MMIS. For many years, Ohio has had a federally approved MMIS capable of receiving, processing, and paying Medicaid claims from providers of health care services. Ohio's MMIS can also generate management reports used for planning and oversight.

Medicaid Information Technology System or MITS is the name given to the technology system that will replace and update Ohio's current MMIS. However, MITS and MMIS are not comparable. It is true that MITS will replace all of the functions of MMIS, but the capabilities of MITS will go far beyond just Medicaid claims processing and information retrieval. See page one for more on the benefits of MITS.

NEW ON THE WEB: THE MITS GLOSSARY

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[HTTP://JFS.OHIO.GOV/MITS/INDEX.STM](http://jfs.ohio.gov/mits/index.stm)
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