



## Center for Health Transformation E-Newsletters

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### Newt Notes

#### Paper Kills

I am extremely proud to announce the upcoming release of a groundbreaking new book from CHT Press:

***Paper Kills: Transforming Health and Healthcare with Information Technology***

Introduction by Newt Gingrich

Edited by David Merritt

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*Paper Kills* addresses the most pressing issues in the drive to modernize and improve healthcare through health information technology, and editor David Merritt has done an excellent job of bringing together a team of experts to show you in real detail how health IT is evolving, and what can be done to make it even more effective.

We are exceedingly grateful for those authors who contributed original works to be included in the book: Brandon Savage of [GE Healthcare](#); Scott Serota of the [Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association](#); Richard Umbdenstock of the [American Hospital Association](#); Glen Tullman of [Allscripts](#); Ed Hammond of [Duke University](#); Tom Fritz and Jac Davies of [Inland Northwest Health Services](#); Ed Fotsch of [Medem](#); Mark Frisse of [Vanderbilt University](#); Richard Bankowitz, Eugene Kroch, and Meg Horgan of [CareScience](#); Beryl Vallejo of BJV Consulting; Mark Rothstein of the [University of Louisville](#); and Michael Heekin, chair of the Governor's Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board for the [state of Florida](#).

The book's ten chapters discuss the most critical landscape, covering topics from protecting privacy and advancing research to building health information exchanges and achieving interoperability. Other contributions explore the role of state governments, health plans, and hospitals in implementing health information technology, as well as the potential of health IT to promote the adoption of best practices in ambulatory care and focus on prevention, wellness, and early detection.

We are confident this text will be an essential tool to help guide the nation toward the widespread adoption of health information technology. This book features some of the best and most innovative ideas out there, and also lays the groundwork for applying health IT in real-world settings.

The bottom line is that "*Paper Kills*" is not just a slogan, but a reality. The transformation to a 21st century intelligent health system absolutely requires us to dismantle our reliance on static, paper-based systems.

We are pleased to share selected advance praise for *Paper Kills*, offered by some of the leading minds in healthcare:

“Moving our healthcare system from pen and paper to 21st-century information technology is essential to getting the best care to people at the lowest cost. The Center for Health Transformation is continuing its leadership in bringing about this transformation of our healthcare system and our health.”

– *Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., Former Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Former Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration*

“Health information technology has real promise for American healthcare. David Merritt and his authors have given new texture and depth to how to fulfill this promise.”

– *David J. Brailer, M.D., Ph.D., Former National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

“This book lays the foundation for a new healthcare system that can match state-of-the-art science to each individual's needs. You hold healthcare's future in your hands.”

– *Brent C. James, M.D., Vice President for Medical Research and Executive Director, Institute for Health Care Delivery Research, Intermountain Healthcare*

“This is required reading for everyone focused on improving health, and for everyone who isn't...but should be. “Paper Kills” drives home the need for an integrated approach to transforming health.”

– *Peter Neupert, Corporate Vice President, Health Solutions Group, Microsoft Corp.*

Additional information is available at [www.PaperKills.net](http://www.PaperKills.net).

***[Click here to view a video of Speaker Gingrich discussing Paper Kills.](#)***

*Attendees at the Center's June Member Meeting in Washington, D.C., are invited to join us in celebration of the launch of **Paper Kills** at a reception to be held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, at the Willard InterContinental Hotel. (The reception follows the conclusion of the day-long program of CHT's Health IT-themed member meeting—see the 'Project Spotlight' for further details.)*

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## **Project Spotlight**

### **Update: CHT's Health Information Technology Project**

As we celebrate the launch of *Paper Kills*, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the status of CHT's Health IT Project. As Project Director David Merritt can attest, the activity surrounding the project is clipping along at a record pace.

Unfortunately, activity in the Congress has not been nearly as visible. While there have been several bills introduced and proposed on HIT in general, the Congress has yet to pass a single bill. As such, we are ramping up our efforts to accelerate the adoption of life- and money-saving potential of health IT.

Just last month, on April 23rd, the Center hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill with leaders from the health insurance industry that served to educate policymakers and the public about the important role that personal health records can play in transforming health and healthcare. "Connecting Consumers, Transforming Health" featured CHT Founder Newt Gingrich; Karen Ignagni, President and CEO, [America's Health Insurance Plans](#); Alissa Fox, vice president, legislative and regulatory policy for the [BlueCross BlueShield Association](#); Archelle Georgiou, Executive Vice President, [UnitedHealth Group](#); and Charles Kennedy, M.D., vice president of clinical informatics, [WellPoint](#); who discussed plans to collaborate to create consumer-friendly personal health records that are based

on universal standards and transportable and secure.

At our June Member Meeting, to be held on June 5th at the Willard InterContinental hotel, we will focus on how health IT is saving lives and saving money right now. Our host for the day is Dr. Brent James, Executive Director of the Institute for Health Care Delivery Research at [Intermountain Healthcare](#) and one of the world's foremost experts on driving clinical improvement, who will lead discussions on issues such as managing clinical processes, quality control costs, clinical integration, and clinical information systems.

The day will be comprised of three separately themed discussions, each led by Dr. James and followed by designated reactor panels:

"Modern Medicine: The Best the World Has Ever Seen" will feature reactor panelists Archelle Georgiou, M.D., Executive Vice President, [UnitedHealth Group](#); Michael C. Howe, Chief Executive Officer, [MinuteClinic](#); and Jonathan B. Perlin, M.D., Ph.D., MSHA, FACP, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President for Quality, [HCA, Inc.](#)

"The Challenges in Healthcare: Fixing What Ails Us" will include formal discussion from Roger Brown, M.D., Director of Clinical Informatics, [Sheridan Healthcare](#); Donald H. Campbell, M.D., MBA, FACS, Senior Vice President, Physician Services, [WellStar Health System](#); and Arthur Garson, Jr., M.D., MPH, Dean, School of Medicine, and Incoming Provost, [University of Virginia](#); Former Chair, National Advisory Council, Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research

And finally, "Driving Clinical Processes with Information Technology and Knowledge Management" features Thomas M. Fritz, Chief Executive Officer, [Inland Northwest Health Services](#); Stephanie L. Reel, Chief Information Officer, Vice President of Information Systems, Johns Hopkins Medicine and Vice Provost for Information Technologies, Asst. Professor, Division of Health Science Informatics, The [Johns Hopkins University](#); and Ron Wince, President & Chief Executive Officer, [Guidon Performance Solutions](#)

For more information regarding CHT Member Meetings, [click here](#).

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## Members Update

The Center for Health Transformation would like to welcome our newest Premier members: [Amylin Pharmaceuticals](#) and [Intermountain Healthcare](#), and Associate member: [Together Rx Access](#).

We are also pleased to recognize the following members for renewing at the Charter level: [MedImpact](#); and at the Associate level: [American Cancer Society](#).

Please visit the [list of members](#) often to keep abreast of who is joining the Center or the "[Member News](#)" page to learn about the awards or honors won by our members.

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## Transforming Example

### AllScripts

The leading provider of clinical software, connectivity, and information services that physicians use to improve healthcare, Allscripts is solving the challenges of limited access to necessary clinical data by providing award-winning clinical software to ambulatory practitioners, including a comprehensive modular electronic health record; ePrescribing; clinical education; and personal health records that are interoperable and can be adopted as the practitioner is ready.

### Situation

There are many challenges facing the healthcare system, including physicians not having complete access to all of their clinical data. These challenges present opportunities to drive the kind of

transformational change that will change the way healthcare is delivered in America.

In a recent study, the Institute of Medicine reported that medical records are misplaced or missing in 30% of patient visits. With clinical automation, physicians can have immediate access to patient information, eliminating the risk of not receiving the most up to date clinical and medication information.

### **Solution**

The adoption of an electronic health record is essential to providing higher-quality care at lower cost. In *Paper Kills: Transforming Health and Healthcare with Information Technology*, AllScripts Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Glen Tullman presents a series of stories illustrating the transformative potential of EHR adoption.

### **Better Health and Lower Costs**

In one example, Mr. Tullman cites Affinity Health Group, a multi-specialty, 27-physician group located in Tifton, Georgia, which has used a strict cost-benefit model to document the net benefits from its electronic health record: one-year savings of \$2.5 million and nearly \$12.7 million over five years.

Implementation of the electronic health record allowed Affinity to cut or reassign several positions directly related to the old paper record. Savings also came through reductions in transcription expenses. Before implementation of the EHR, caregivers dictated notes that other employees transcribed into the paper record. To avoid creating a dual-charge system, in which charges would be determined by both the paper record and the EHR, Affinity pre-loaded critical portions of the paper record into the electronic health record and then closed the paper chart the day the system went live. As a result, Affinity reduced monthly transcription hours by 50 percent, enabling the elimination of four transcription positions.

Significantly, productivity losses during Affinity's implementation were minimal. The practice budgeted for a 30 percent reduction in office visits due to the expected high learning curve, but the actual

reduction was a mere 5 percent, with the rate of visits returning to normal in less than one month.

For more information, see Chapter 6 of *Paper Kills: Transforming Health and Healthcare with Information Technology*, ed. David Merritt ("Best Demonstrated Practices in Ambulatory Care: Driving Adoption of Electronic Health Records," by Glen E. Tullman). Visit [www.PaperKills.net](http://www.PaperKills.net) for ordering information.

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## CHT in the News

### **Paper Kills**

Exclusive preview: [HealthLeaders News](#) features an article adapted from the text of Speaker Newt Gingrich's introduction to the forthcoming release from CHT Press, *Paper Kills: Transforming Health and Healthcare with Information Technology*.

### **Alabama vs. Georgia**

In an original op-ed, CHT Project Director Jim Frogue and Alabama Policy Institute Vice President Michael Ciamarra propose a race to see which state can be the first to arrive at 100 percent e-prescribing. ([Birmingham News](#))

### **Gingrich Speaks at Gala Honoring 140th Anniversary of Homeland Center**

CHT Founder Newt Gingrich discussed the future of health information technology at the personal care home and skilled-nursing facility in Harrisburg, PA. ([The Patriot-News](#))

### **Nurses Are the Key to Linking IT with Better Patient Care**

In an interview with [MD Net Guide](#), CHT Project Director Laura Linn discusses nurses' involvement in IT implementation and the obstacles that must be overcome in order for new technologies to succeed.

### **Former Health Director Works to Transform Healthcare Delivery**

Julie Eckstein, CHT's new Director of State Operations, says it's important for all stakeholders in the healthcare industry to come together to identify the gaps that exist in our current delivery systems. (*Missourinet*)

### **Former House Speaker Gingrich, Others Endorse Medical Home Concept**

*AAFP News* Now reports on CHT's April 23 Capitol Hill briefing on personal health records.

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Julie Eckstein to speak to the St. Louis University School of Public Health**

*St. Louis, MO*

Friday, June 1, 2007

### **CHT Member Meeting: "Health Information Technology"**

*Washington, DC*

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

### **Wayne Oliver to speak at the American Pharmacists Association Foundation's Pinnacle Awards**

*Washington, DC*

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

### **Newt Gingrich to speak at the Second National Medicaid Congress Conference Meeting**

*Washington, DC*

Thursday, June 14, 2007

### **Jim Frogue to speak at the "Health Chairs Meeting," National Conference of State Legislatures**

*Washington, DC*

Friday, June 22, 2007

### **Newt Gingrich to speak to the Michigan Health & Hospital**

## **Association**

*Mackinac Island, MI*

Friday, June 29, 2007

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