

Professional Specialty Groups in the Indian Health Service  
R. Frank Martin, DDS, MPH  
Indian Health Service

In 1985, the Director, Indian Health Service (IHS) authorized the establishment of Professional Specialty Groups (PSG) to provide recommendations and assistance regarding clinical and administrative software applications -- from initial planning, through the development, implementation, operation and maintenance throughout the life cycles of the applications.

A PSG is composed of Headquarters, Area, Service Unit, Tribal, and Urban Indian Health program, discipline/function-specific experts who share a common interest and expertise in health care delivery, or administrative support for health care delivery. Systems development staff is assigned by the CIO to work with the PSG in providing technical advice and assistance.

The goal of the PSG is to ensure that the information needs of the IHS, Tribal and Urban (I/T/U) facilities are addressed, I/T/Us are equipped with effective computer assisted information systems and that the IHS mission is met at the field, Area and Headquarters levels.

This presentation will present a brief *overview*/discussion of the development and evolution of PSG in the IHS and how they are used to develop software applications that will be used nationally by the various disciplines/functions of the program.