

The U. S. Health Care System Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions

Fifth National HIPAA Summit
Clinical Data Standards and the Creation of an
Interconnected, Electronic Health Information
Infrastructure

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State of the U.S. Health Care System

- ❖ Health Care Costs Rising Rapidly
- ❖ Changing Demographics
- ❖ Rising Number of Uninsured
- ❖ Patients and Consumers Demanding More
- ❖ Quality of Care and Safety Issues
- ❖ Practicing Medicine is Increasingly Complex

Our Vision

Consumers, providers and those responsible for population health will have ready access to timely, relevant, reliable and secure health care information through an interconnected, electronic health information infrastructure.

What Does this Mean?

- ❖ Computerized patient records in every clinician's office.
- ❖ Interoperable health care systems with secure connectivity across providers, patients, payers, public health and others.
- ❖ Clinicians armed with the information they need to make the best clinical decisions at the right time.
- ❖ Consumers, patients and caregivers armed with the information they need to manage and address their own health care needs.

Benefits of Information and IT

- ❖ Usage of computerized physician order entry reduces medication errors
- ❖ Usage of computerized patient records saves money and improves quality

Who Benefits?

- ❖ Practicing Clinicians
- ❖ Payers
- ❖ Quality Improvement Organizations
- ❖ Public Health
- ❖ Researchers
- ❖ Ultimately....Patients!!

Despite IT's Promise, Diffusion is Slow

- ❖ Less than 5% physician groups utilize computerized patient records
- ❖ While 13-15% of hospitals today have some form of computerized medication order entry, physicians enter less than 25% of orders using the system
- ❖ More than 90% of 30 billion health transactions per year are conducted by phone, fax, or mail
- ❖ 10 to 81% of the time, physicians do not find patient information that had been previously recorded and contained in a paper-based record.

Barriers to Adoption

- ❖ Funding
- ❖ Lack of Interoperability
- ❖ Lack of Political Will

The Role of the eHealth Initiative

The missions of both the eHealth Initiative and its Foundation for eHealth are the same:

To drive improvement in the quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness of health care through information technology.

eHealth Initiative's Members

- ❖ Health care information technology suppliers
- ❖ Health systems and hospitals
- ❖ Health plans
- ❖ Employers and purchasers
- ❖ Pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers
- ❖ Practicing clinician organizations
- ❖ Public Health
- ❖ Research and academic institutions

eHealth Initiative's Strategic Priorities

- ❖ Increase awareness of the role of information technology in driving greater quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness in health care
- ❖ Lay the foundation for an “interconnected, electronic health information infrastructure” by promoting the adoption of clinical data standards and enhanced connectivity
- ❖ Build the case for public and private economic incentives for better quality health care enabled by information technology

eHealth Initiative's Activities

- ❖ Public-Private Sector Collaboration for Public Health – multi-stakeholder initiative focused on driving transmission of standardized electronic data for public health purposes
- ❖ Support of Markle Foundation's Connecting for Health Initiative – goal is to rapidly accelerate an interoperable health care system
- ❖ New Initiative – Accelerating rapid diffusion of e-prescribing

Today's Agenda

- ❖ Gain an understanding of the need for an interconnected, electronic health information infrastructure and the adoption of clinical data standards
- ❖ Understand the building blocks for getting there
- ❖ Learn from regional data exchange projects
- ❖ Learn what both the private sector and government are doing to accelerate the creation of an interconnected, electronic health information infrastructure