Overview

- Interoperability: Federal Health Architecture
- Standards: Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI)
- Connectivity: Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN)
- Security and Risk Challenges
- Questions
Both the public and private sectors have been moving toward interoperability and standardization over the years:

- 1998: National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) espoused a national health information infrastructure to promote American health.
- 2002: Markle Foundation forms Connecting For Health initiative that assembled public/private leadership in healthcare to promote common electronic standards.
- 2003: President Bush signs the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) to allow CMS to establish key infrastructure for health information technology such as e-prescribing.
Electronic Health Record

- President Bush issued Executive Order on April 27, 2004 (Incentives for the Use of Health Information Technology and Establishing the Position of the National Health Information Technology Coordinator):
  - Created the Office of the National Health Information Technology Coordinator
  - Ordered the development and nationwide implementation of an interoperable health information technology infrastructure
  - Established the goal of electronic health records for all Americans within 10 years

- On May 6, HHS secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the appointment of David J. Brailer, MD, PhD, to this position
Health Care Challenges

- Error rates are too high
- Quality is inconsistent
- Research results are not rapidly used
- Costs are escalating
- New technologies continue to drive up costs
- Demographics of baby boomers will greatly increase demand
- Capacity for early detection of bioterrorism is minimal
Federal Health Architecture
Vision and Goals

- **Vision:** Safer and healthier citizens who have improved access to health related information and services.

- **Goals:**
  - Improved coordination and collaboration on national health IT solutions.
  - Improved efficiency, standardization, reliability, and availability of comprehensive health information solutions.
FHA Background

- July 2003: FHA program established, but not as an e-gov initiative.

- March 2004: Creation of the FHA Line of Business within the FEA as an e-Gov initiative was announced by Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

- July 2004 FHA was moved organizationally to the Office of the National Coordinator within HHS.

- December 2004: Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI) assumed under FHA as Data Standards Workgroup.
Managing Partner
HHS

Federal Enterprise-wide Governance Structure

Lead Agency Partners
VA, DOD, HHS

Supporting Partners
SSA, EPA, Commerce/NIST, NASA, Justice & more…
FHA Principles

- Establish **Federal Interoperability** standards.
- Coordinate technology investments with the Federal business and architecture.
- **Minimize the data collection burden.**
- Secure Federal information against unauthorized access.
- Take advantage of **standardization based on common functions** and customers.
- Provide access to information.
- Select and **implement proven market technologies**.
- Develop the architecture in an evolutionary way, via a series of releases.
Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI)

- One of the 24 Quicksilver eGovernment Initiatives
  - To enable the sharing of health information in a secure environment to improve health
  - To establish Federal health information interoperability standards as the basis for electronic health data transfer in all activities and projects and among all Federal agencies.
  - Lead and influence in sync with industry

- Phase I completed in March 2004
- Phase II initiated in September 2004 and continuing to this day
CHI Strategy

- CHI is part of the President’s eGov Portfolio
- Goal is to adopt existing clinical vocabulary and messaging standards to enable interoperability in the federal health care enterprise
- Agencies will build standards into individual IT architecture to deploy in new systems and major system upgrades
- Policies preserve individual partner agency business rules
- Formed strong relationship with NCVHS Standards and Security Subcommittee to obtain input from private sector
CHI Status

- **Current Status:**
  - Government-wide health IT governance council established.
  - 24 target domains for data and messaging standards identified.
  - 20 standards adopted by CHI and mandated for federal government.

- **Ongoing Activities:**
  - Continuous review of all adopted standards
  - Developing implementation guidelines for adopted standards
  - Adoption of new health standards
  - Outreach and communications
  - Coordinate with other efforts from the National Coordinator and synergistic industry efforts
Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) supports Strategic Framework

- Framework for Strategic Action published on July 21st, 2004 by the Secretary of HHS, and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC):
  - Goal 1: Inform Clinical Practice
  - **Goal 2: Interconnect Clinicians**
    - Strategy 2: Develop NHIN
  - Goal 3: Personalize Care
  - Goal 4: Improve Population Health

“**Nationwide Health Information Network**”

A set of common intercommunication tools to support data movement that is inexpensive & secure
Addresses the goal of interconnecting clinicians by seeking public comment and input regarding how widespread interoperability of health information technologies & exchange can be achieved.

Intent to inform policy discussions about possible methods by which widespread interoperability and health information exchange could be deployed and operated on a sustainable basis.

RFI URL: www.hhs.gov/healthit
NHIN Status

- Due Date was 18 January 2005
- Approximately 500 responses submitted
- 3 Federal workgroups established to review RFI responses.
  - WG 1: Technical architecture
  - WG 2: Business Architecture and Standards/Policies
  - WG 3: Financial and Legal/Regulatory

- Dr. Brailer anticipates reporting out to public Summer 2005
Security and Risks Challenges

- Patient Privacy and Security Paramount
  - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Regulations
- Legal requirements will vary widely among jurisdictions.
- Ownership in Electronic Health Record need to be addressed.
- Standardized business policies and practices for the addition, amendment or alteration to a EHR must be discussed.
- Measures must be identified to ensure an accurate reflection of the chronology of clinical events and information availability in the EHR.
Phases Approach

Standards & Policies
- Reduce EHR risk
- Regional collaboration
- Health Information network
- Quality measures

Enhanced Adoption and Knowledge
- EHR adoption
- Rural diffusion
- Accelerate research
- Personal Health Records

Implementation:
- Consumer choice
- Surveillance
- Health status monitoring

Questions?

ONC Website: http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/

CHI Website:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/pres_init/gtob.htm

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