



Department of Health & Human Services  
Office of the National Coordinator for  
Health Information Technology

# Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Kelly Cronin  
Director, Office of Programs and Coordination

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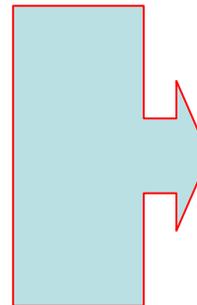
## Office of the National Coordinator (ONC)

- **Established in response to Executive Order 13335, April 27, 2004**
- **Sec. 2. Policy. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the work of the National Coordinator shall ...**
- **(a) Ensures that appropriate information to guide medical decisions is available at the time and place of care;**
- **(b) Improves health care quality, reduces medical errors, and advances the delivery of appropriate, evidence-based medical care;**
- **(c) Reduces health care costs resulting from inefficiency, medical errors, inappropriate care, and incomplete information;**
- **(d) Promotes a more effective marketplace, greater competition, and increased choice through the wider availability of accurate information on health care costs, quality, and outcomes;**
- **(e) Improves the coordination of care and information among hospitals, laboratories, physician offices, and other ambulatory care providers through an effective infrastructure for the secure and authorized exchange of health care information; and**
- **(f) Ensures that patients' individually identifiable health information is secure and protected.**

# ONC Major Initiatives

In 2004, President Bush called for the widespread use of electronic health records (EHRs) within 10 years. Despite the demonstrated benefits to care delivery, studies have found use of EHRs remains low among physicians, hospitals and other health care providers. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has set the foundation for adoption of interoperable EHRs through the following major initiatives:

- American Health Information Community
- Standards Harmonization Process
- Compliance Certification Process
- Privacy and Security Solutions
- Nationwide Health Information Network Prototypes



All addressing e-authentication from various perspectives

## Health IT Standards Panel

- HHS awarded a contract valued at \$3.3 million to the **American National Standards Institute**, a non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization activities, to convene the **Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP)**.
- The HITSP will develop, prototype, and evaluate a harmonization process for achieving a widely accepted and useful set of health IT standards that will support interoperability among health care software applications, particularly EHRs.
  - HITSP work includes standards for e-authentication

## Compliance Certification Process

- HHS awarded a contract to the **Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT)** to develop criteria and evaluation processes for certifying EHRs and the infrastructure or network components through which they interoperate.
- CCHIT has completed ambulatory EHR certification criteria and an evaluation process for ambulatory health records.
  - Criteria include the privacy and security requirements for EHRs, standards by which EHRs can share health information and clinical features that improve patient outcomes.

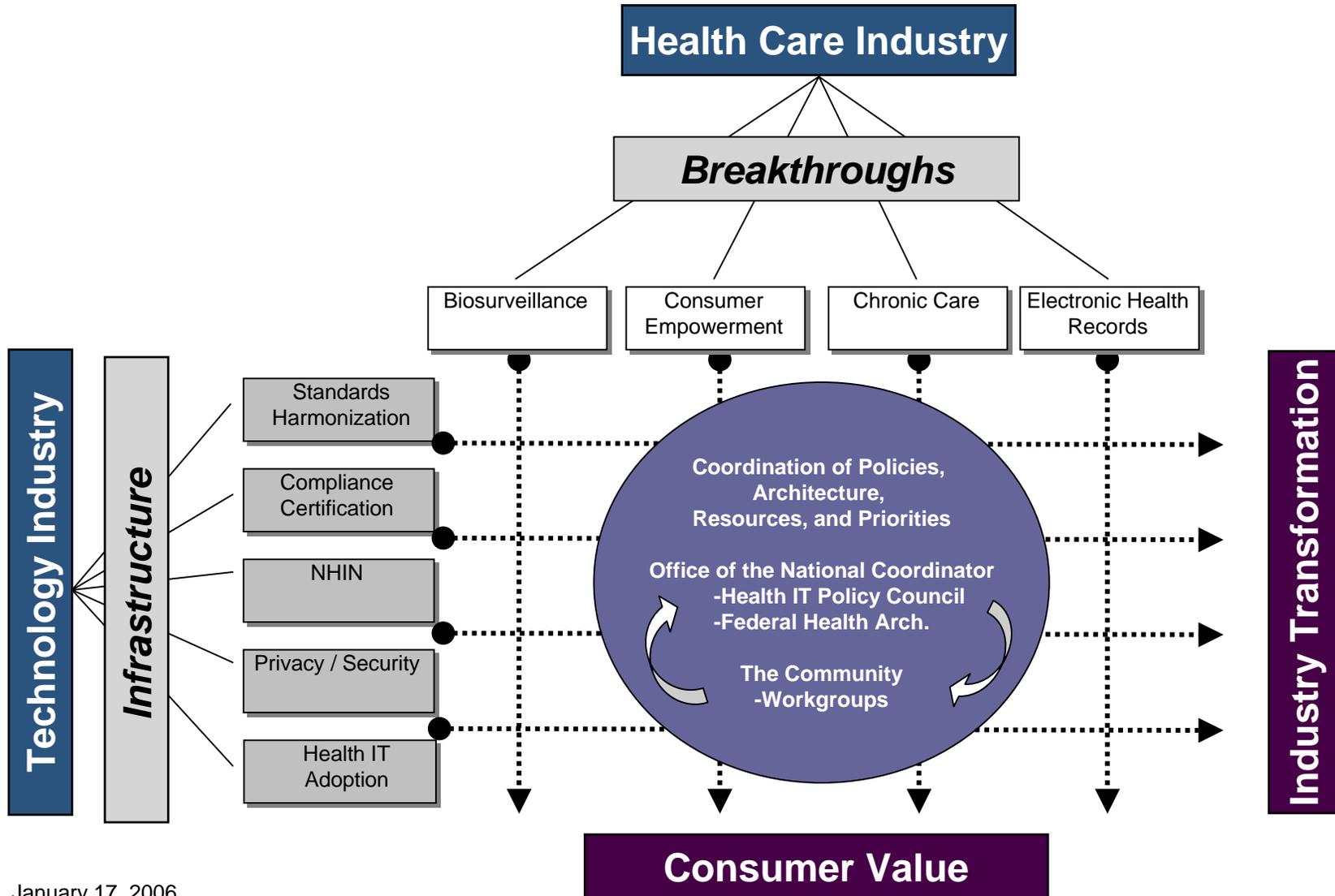
# Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative

- HHS contracted with RTI to form HISPC
  - RTI Subcontracted with 34 states this year
- Each state will develop a:
  - Variation work group to categorize business practices as neutral, barriers or best practices with respect to interoperability
  - Legal work group to identify barriers to state law and classify policies as being consistent with or exceeding legal requirements
  - Solutions work group to identify ways to overcome barriers
  - Implementation Planning work group to develop state specific implementation plans for proposed solutions

# Nationwide Health Information Network - Prototypes and Timing

- A nation-wide utility that allows secure and seamless health information exchange
- Capitalized by public and private investment and operated by private organizations
- NHIN Prototypes under development
  - Recommended data, technical standards and privacy and security policies due between **February – September**
  - Operational Plan due in **August**
  - Revenue and cost models due **October**
  - Complete technical design and Architecture due in **November**
  - Demonstrated health information exchange within and across 12 markets by **December 31<sup>st</sup>**
- Expanded development and scalable, production quality demonstrations in 2007
- Certification of NHIN by CCHIT in 2008

# Health Information Technology Deployment



January 17, 2006

## Privacy and Security Policies must enable a variety of health care and public health functions

- DHHS takes a holistic view of this effort, recognizing it within the broad context of the nation's overall HIT goals
- DHHS addresses health information technology beyond controlled substances and/or other compliance-driven issues.
- Controlled substances are an important consideration but represent one of a wide spectrum of issues to consider in policy development
- ONC urges all attendees to participate in this meeting and approach these discussions with this comprehensive health information technology framework in mind
- This meeting along with many other processes will inform DHHS and DEA ongoing discussions, processes and next steps

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