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.
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.
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.
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.
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 31st
- Expanded development and scalable, production quality demonstrations in 2007
- Certification of NHIN by CCHIT in 2008
Health Information Technology Deployment

Health Care Industry

Breakthroughs

Biosurveillance
Consumer Empowerment
Chronic Care
Electronic Health Records

Coordination of Policies, Architecture, Resources, and Priorities
Office of the National Coordinator
-Health IT Policy Council
-Federal Health Arch.
The Community
-Workgroups

Standards Harmonization
Compliance Certification
NHIN
Privacy / Security
Health IT Adoption

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
For More Information Visit...

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