CONNECTING FOR CARE THROUGH HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE:
Secure & Meaningful Exchange of Health Information Over the Internet

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Key Direction from NHIN Workgroup

» Meaningful use criteria in the proposed CMS rule require exchange of health information among providers and with patients to improve quality, safety, and efficiency of care, patient engagement, coordination of care, and population health.

» The NHIN should support achievement of Meaningful Use in 2011 and beyond.

» Stage 1 criteria involve secure, direct communication of patient data among providers and with patients. For example:

- Doctor ↔ Consultant §170.304 (i) – Exchange clinical info & summary record
- Lab ↔ Doctor §170.302 (g) – Receive lab results
- Doctor ↔ Hospital §170.304 (i) – Exchange clinical info & summary record
- Doctor ↔ Patient §170.304 (h)(2) – Provide electronic clinical summary
What is the NHIN?

A set of **policies**, **standards** and **services** that enable the Internet to be used for secure and meaningful exchange of health information to improve health and health care.

What is the NHIN Direct Project?

An ONC-sponsored initiative that will explore the set of **policies**, **standards** and **services** to enable simple, direct transport over the Internet (between people who know each other) to be used for secure exchange in support of meaningful use.
Let's Be Clear…

NHIN Direct is a project, with a beginning and end, to draft the specifications and services that address simple, direct communications between known participants (through a Trust Enabling Organization which may be an HIO).

When implemented, within a policy framework, health service providers and HIOs will not be using NHIN Direct, but will be using the NHIN specifications to satisfy the use cases of simple, direct communications between known participants.

Why the NHIN Direct project?

There is a need to support a broader set of participants and providers in information exchange so they can meet meaningful use requirements.

The goal is a simple, standards-based, widely deployed and well-supported method for providers to securely transport health information using the Internet in support of the core Meaningful Use use cases.

This effort is complementary to the current NHIN model; both NHIN Direct and the current NHIN model will be needed to support nationwide health information exchange.
Difference between NHIN and NHIN Direct

NHIN Direct will Only Solve One Part of the Puzzle

Other services

- Aggregate data for quality or public health
- Complex multi-party routing (many to many)
- Develop trust mechanisms
- Maintain common provider index
- Secure Routing

Value-added services
Core Use Cases

- Primary care provider refers patient to specialist including summary care record
- Primary care provider refers patient to hospital including summary care record
- Specialist sends summary care information back to referring provider
- Hospital sends discharge or continuity of care information to referring provider
- Laboratory sends lab results to ordering provider
- Includes intra-regional and trans-regional cases (e.g., secondary or tertiary care facility coordination of care with primary care provider)

NHIN Direct Project

- Open, transparent collaborative process,
- Include use of wikis, blogs, open source and open content
- http://nhindirect.org
- First phase grounded in real-world implementation in 2010
- Follow key rules of HIT Standards Committee Implementation Workgroup
Learn More about NHIN and NHIN Direct

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