APHA Panel Discussion: Improving Consumer Health with EHR/PHR Systems and Policies

Overview of current federal health IT policy

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Federal Health IT Policy

- **U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS)**
  - Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)
  - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
  - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
  - American Health Information Community (AHIC) advisory committee to HHS Secretary
- **Congress**
  - Legislative proposals
- **Office of Management and Budget (OMB) federal agency oversight**
- **Presidential candidates' election year proposals**

Federal Health IT Policy

- **HHS AHIC Workgroups**
  - Population Health and Clinical Care Connections
    - Data Steering Group
  - Chronic Care
  - Confidentiality, Privacy, & Security
  - Consumer Empowerment
  - Electronic Health Records
  - Quality
  - Personalized Healthcare

Federal Health IT Policy

- **Major Federal Initiatives:**
  - Value Driven Healthcare
    - Interoperable Health Information Technology (Health IT Standards)
    - Measure and Publish Quality Information (Quality Standards)
    - Measure and Publish Price Information (Price Standards)
    - Promote Quality and Efficiency of Care (Incentives)
  - Electronic Health Record (EHR) Adoption Demonstration
  - Personalized Healthcare
    - Goal 1 (of 4): Link Clinical and Genomic Information to Support Personalized Health Care

Federal Health IT Policy

- ## Major Federal Initiatives:
  - ❑ Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) Prototypes
    - ■ Initial contracts (2006) to four NHIN consortia (systems integrators)
    - ■ Current contract (2007) to 9 health information exchanges (HIEs)
  - ❑ Personal Health Records (PHR)
    - ■ VHA PHR (http://www.myhealth.va.gov/)
    - ■ CMS Medicare PHR (http://www.mymedicare.gov/)
  - ❑ Data & Technical Standards - Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP)
  - ❑ Health IT Certification - Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT)

Federal Health IT Policy

- **More Federal Initiatives**
  - Privacy and Security:
    - Privacy and Security Solutions for Interoperable Health Information Exchange (HIE)
    - State Alliance for E-Health
    - Development of Best Practices for State-level Health Information Exchange Initiatives
  - Health IT Adoption Measurement
  - Stark and Anti-Kickback in HIT
  - Best Practices for State-level Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs)
  - Anti-fraud for Electronic Health Records (EHRs)
  - Federal Health Architecture (FHA)

Federal Health IT Policy

- Open Issues:
  - Public Health – integration of local, state and federal efforts
  - Digital divide – access to technology for personal management of health information
  - Consumer awareness and education
  - Privacy and security, bigger than the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
  - Physician or Consumer/Patient – where to focus??