**ONC**

**Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology**

# HHS Health IT Alignment Policy: Promoting Health IT Standards Alignment Across the Department of Health and Human Services

**ONC Annual Meeting**

**Friday, December 15, 2023 - 2:30-3:30 pm ET**

# Agenda

- Brief Overview of HHS Health IT Alignment Policy

- Panel Discussion

- Questions

# HHS Health IT Alignment: Background

- HHS spending on health IT-related activities has grown dramatically in recent years.

- Recent public health emergencies further demonstrated the importance of interoperable data to inform the response and to identify and address disparities in care.

- As health IT-related activities begin to play an increasingly prominent role in programs across the Department, it is critical to ensure alignment of activities to avoid data silos and industry confusion.

- A process is needed to ensure a consistent, HHS-wide approach to standard health IT requirements across HHS agencies and programs, as called for in the HITECH Act.

# HHS Health IT Alignment: Policy Description

**Consistent HHS Approach to the Inclusion of Health IT Requirements in Grants, Cooperative Agreements, Contracts, and Policy and Regulatory Actions**

1. Institutes a Department-wide management policy to promote greater alignment of health IT-related activities.

2. Directs ONC to engage with HHS agencies to align and coordinate health IT-related activities in support of HHS health IT and interoperability goals.

3. Directs Operating Divisions and Staff Divisions (OpDivs/StaffDivs):

   a) To the extent legally permissible, to include standard health IT language in applicable grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and rulemaking to ensure alignment of the Department's health IT investments; and

   b) To maximize opportunities to align HHS's health IT requirements and investments by engaging with ONC when the OpDiv/StaffDiv initiates a major health IT-related activity.

# HHS Health IT Alignment: Policy Goals

- Establish a consistent HHS-wide approach to standard health IT requirements across HHS agencies and programs to eliminate program and data silos and advance the effectiveness and efficiency of Department programs and policies.

- Enable full exercise of HHS authorities to promote cross-agency collaboration and better support each agency's mission.

- Reinforce department goals for nationwide interoperability through consistency in funding and policies related to health IT activities.

- Provide Secretary-level and cross-agency visibility and awareness of significant health IT activities.

# Panel Discussion

- Panelists:
  - David De Voursney: Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA
  - Janel Parham: Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA
  - Clare Pierce-Wrobel: Domestic Policy Council (previously HHS/IOS)
  - Blenda Perez: Office of Acquisitions, ASFR
  - Tara Ramanathan Holiday: Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology, CDC

Session:

HHS Health IT Alignment Policy: Promoting health IT standards alignment across the Department of Health and Human Services

# Questions?

Send all questions about the HHS Health IT Alignment Policy to:
ONCHealthITAlignment@hhs.gov

**Phone:** 202-690-7151

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