

CONNECTING HEALTH AND CARE FOR THE NATION: A SHARED NATIONWIDE INTEROPERABILITY ROADMAP – DRAFT VERSION 1.0

Quick Reference Factsheet

WHERE ARE WE GOING

The Department of Health & Human Services has identified that sharing information more broadly to providers, consumers, and others to support better decisions while maintaining privacy, is one way of achieving better care, smarter spending and a healthier nation. To guide the nation toward these goals, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) released [A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap – Draft Version 1.0](#) (Roadmap) which defines the implementation of how the government in collaboration with the private sector should approach sharing electronic health information and addresses the collaborative impact of all stakeholders in advancing interoperability. This also speaks directly to the second goal of the [Federal Health IT Strategic Plan 2015-2020](#), to advance secure and interoperable health information, and further drives the entire nation toward realizing the development of a nationwide learning health system. ONC is accepting [public comments](#) on the draft Roadmap now through 5 p.m. ET on April 3, 2015.

WHO NEEDS TO COME ALONG ON THE JOURNEY

People who receive care or support the care of others		People and organizations that deliver care and services	
Organizations that pay for care		People and organizations that support the public good	
People and organizations that generate new knowledge, whether research or quality improvement		People and organizations that provide health IT capabilities	
People and organizations that govern, certify, and/or have oversight		People and organizations that develop and maintain standards	

WHAT ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

An interoperable health IT ecosystem that is person-centered makes the right electronic health information available to the right people at the right time across products and organizations, in a way that can be relied upon and meaningfully used by recipients. This ecosystem should adhere to the interoperability guiding principles. Based on feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, ONC updated this set of guiding principles in version 1.0 of the Roadmap.



WHEN AND HOW WE GET THERE

The Roadmap identifies critical actions that are necessary to achieve interoperability goals over the next three, six, and ten-year timeframes.





The Roadmap is based on a core set of business and functional requirements to achieve a learning health system, organized by five critical building blocks that support the business, policy and technical needs of a nationwide interoperable electronic health information infrastructure.

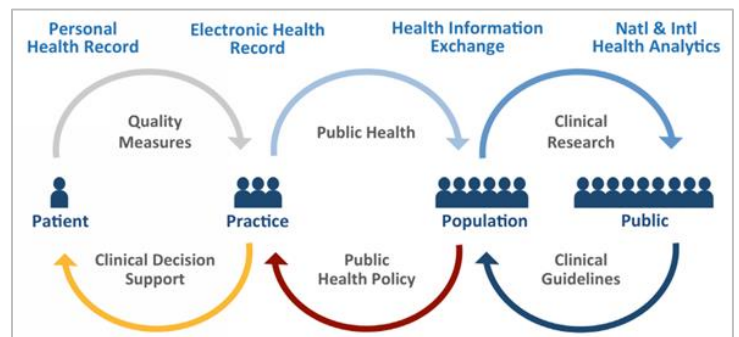
Interoperability Roadmap Building Blocks	Learning Health System Requirements
Rules of engagement and governance	A. Shared governance of policy and standards that enable interoperability
Supportive business, clinical, cultural and regulatory environments	B. A supportive business and regulatory environment that encourages interoperability C. Individuals are empowered to be active managers of their health D. Care providers partner with individuals to deliver high value care
Privacy and security protections for health information	E. Ubiquitous, secure network infrastructure F. Verifiable identity and authentication of all participants G. Consistent representation of permission to collect, share, and use identifiable health information H. Consistent representation of authorization to access health information
Certification and testing to support adoption and optimization of health IT products and services	I. Stakeholder assurance that health IT is interoperable
Core technical standards and functions	J. Consistent Data Formats and semantics K. Standard, secure services L. Consistent, secure transport technique(s) M. Accurate identity matching N. Reliable resource location

Although these actions will have to be taken by stakeholders to achieve near-term and long-term interoperability goals, the following four critical pathways are of highest priority:

1. Establish a coordinated governance framework and process for nationwide health information interoperability
2. Improve technical standards and implementation guidance for sharing and using a common clinical data set**
3. Advance incentives for sharing health information according to common technical standards, starting with a common clinical data set
4. Clarify privacy and security requirements that enable interoperability

WHY IT MATTERS

Most determinants of health status are social and are influenced by actions and encounters that occur outside traditional institutional health care delivery settings, such as in employment, retail, education, and other settings. This shift requires a high degree of information sharing between individuals, providers, and organizations, and therefore a high degree of interoperability between many different types of health IT, such that systems can exchange and use electronic health information without special effort on the part of the user. The goal of this shift is to a nationwide learning health system—an environment that links the care delivery system with communities and societal supports in "closed loops" of electronic health information flow, at many different levels, to enable continuous learning and improved health. This kind of system allows individuals to select platforms and apps to share and use their own electronic health information to meet their needs without undue constraints.



**The draft [2015 Interim Interoperability Standards Advisory](#) was released on January 30, 2015. ONC is also accepting [public comment](#) on this document now through May 1, 2015 5 p.m. ET.