



AHRQ Health IT Portfolio

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Overview

- AHRQ Mission
- Health Information Technology Programs at AHRQ
- Questions





Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The mission of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans.





Health Information Technology Programs at AHRQ





Investment Strategy: Key Attributes

- Defined deliverables:
 - Improvements in care (Quality and Safety)
 - Efficiencies
 - Effectiveness
- Diverse vehicles:
 - Traditional research (Transforming Healthcare Quality through Information Technology (THQIT) Value)
 - R & D Activities (THQIT Implementation and State HIT)
 - Implementation (Planning, Implementation and State HIT)
- Anticipate stakeholder needs:
 - Short-term (standards, eRx grants, privacy, legal)
 - Mid-term (prescription drug program, P4P/QI)
 - Future (regional health information exchanges)





Selected Health IT Initiatives

- Transforming Healthcare Quality through Information Technology (THQIT):
 - 3 Grant Solicitations
 - Focus on community partnerships
- Electronic Prescribing Standards RFA
- AHRQ National Resource Center for Health IT
- State and Regional HIT Demonstrations
- CMS – AHRQ collaboration
- Indian Health Service – RPMS Project
- Develop Privacy and Legal Framework





State & Regional HIT Demonstrations: Prototype RHIOs

- Five-year state-based contracts:
 - Help states develop secure statewide networks
 - Ensure privacy of health information
 - Make an individuals' health information more available to health care providers
- FY04: Five states awarded \$1 M/year
 - Colorado
 - Indiana
 - Rhode Island
 - Tennessee
 - Utah





AHRQ National Resource Center for Health Information Technology

- Provide technical and expert support to health IT grantees, contractors, and selected other federal grantees
- Contract award to NORC (up to \$18.5M over 5 years)
 - In partnership with:
 - Vanderbilt University
 - Center for IT Leadership (Partners)
 - Indiana University
 - Foundation for the eHealth Initiative
 - CSC
 - Burness Communications





Future Program Emphasis

- Regional collaborations
 - Regional health information exchanges
 - Linkage with existing and future initiatives (e.g. payment or quality)
- Delineate privacy and legal framework
- Synergize ongoing and future medication & therapeutic initiatives
 - ePrescribing (grants to physicians, MMA eRx programs)
 - Chronic disease programs
 - Integrate decision support with prescribing
- Create avenues for enhancing technical and resource support for stakeholders





Future Program Emphasis

- Development of metrics
 - Development of measures that are valid, reliable, clear and understood by all stakeholders
 - Done in cooperation with researchers, purchasers, and providers

- Ability to evaluate value to stakeholders and investors
 - Fiscal
 - Non-fiscal





QUESTIONS





For additional questions, please
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