

“The committee believes IT must play a central role in the redesign of the healthcare system if a substantial improvement in health care quality is to be achieved during the coming decade.”

Committee on the Quality of Health Care in American, 2001

IT can make a significant contribution to healthcare delivery improvement through support for:

- consumer health,
- clinical care,
- administrative and financial transactions,
- public health
- professional education, and
- research.

These advances in the use of IT are dependent upon  
“standards for the electronic exchange, privacy and  
security of health information.”

Administrative Simplification Provisions of HIPPA, 8-14-02

## Components of a national response:

- National Health Information Network – 2004
- More than 22 states enter into subcontracts with RTI International, Inc. to address privacy and security questions affecting interoperable health information exchange.
- “Privacy and Confidentiality in the Nationwide Health Information Network”

Privacy – individual right to control acquisition, uses, or disclosures of his or her own identifiable health data.

Confidentiality – the obligation of those who receive information to respect privacy interests of those to whom the data relate.

Security – *the physical, technical, or administrative safeguards or tools to protect identifiable health data from unwarranted access or disclosure.*

“One of the strongest early lessons we’re learning from our research on electronic health information is that some of the main challenges for adoption are not technical issues. Rather, they’re issues of inclusion and trust. This work on privacy and security will leave an indelible mark on the ultimate formulation of a national health information network.”

AHRQ Director, Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy



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