



NCS and the Secretary's Council on Applications of Health Information Technology (CAHIT)

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NCS Advisory Committee





CAHIT

- Formed June 2003 by Secretary, DHHS
- Internal HHS Deliberative Body





CAHIT Goals

- Coordinate HHS activities
- Promote timely exchange of information about HHS activities and opportunities
- Serve as primary forum for identifying and evaluating activities and investments that complement private sector initiatives
- Make recommendations to the Secretary
 - Strategic opportunities to enhance applications of HIT in U.S. healthcare.





What is HIT?

- IT applications can support clinical care and its coordination, research, quality and patient safety measurement and improvement
- Improves data accuracy and reliability (no more handwriting!, units and conversions, weight-based dosing for kids)





HIT Assets and Opportunities

■ Today:

- Electronic health/medical record (EHR/EMR)
- Computerized decision support systems (guideline-based prompts)
- Patient-physician communication (email, patient portals)
- Smart cards
- Community-level data sharing and integration
- Computerized prescription order entry
- Web-facilitated research

■ Tomorrow?

- Wearable data collection technology (burden reduction)
- ?



Issues

- Privacy and confidentiality
 - HIPAA regulations
 - Beyond – identity theft
- A thousand flowers blooming – need interconnectivity
- Standards and platforms
 - HL7
 - SNOMED
- Cost
 - Short-term capital investment
 - Long-term savings/efficiencies?
- Research – practice connection – rarely done



For discussion

- NCS a strategic opportunity for CAHIT
 - AND
- CAHIT a strategic opportunity for NCS



Some initial ideas

- Paperless records
- Link different data collection efforts
 - A laptop or PDA for every child
- Dynamic and quick access to data
 - Research papers
 - Identify needs for more rigorous studies
 - Identify opportunities for improvement
 - ◆ Toxic exposures
 - ◆ Disparities in health care
 - ◆ Quality improvements
- Leave systems behind for participating
 - communities (coordination within and across sites) and
 - research participants (smart cards)
- Quick future study expansions and adaptations





Thoughts and Questions?



