

State Collaborative Workgroups

1. Consent/Authorization (Standard Policies)
Define the consent/authorization issues that need to be standardized to apply broadly across the states. The starting point is to look at current legal environment – what is relevant and necessary and what is obsolete. Possible action items:
 - Develop standardized consent language and/or consent form.
 - Develop guidelines for making opt-in/opt-out decisions that would allow for exchange between states, and/or others.

2. Harmonizing State Privacy Law
Possible scope includes:
 - Review of existing state privacy laws and best practices.
 - Creating a methodology for developing new laws.
 - Developing new model laws.
 - Working in conjunction with other initiatives (State Alliance/NCCUSL) to determine guidelines for conducting legal review and reform within states that will facilitate private and secure exchange.

3. Adoption of Technology Standards (Authentication/Access Control/Audit).
 - Develop policy solutions to encourage buy-in an adoption of technology standards that enable private and secure exchange, mainly authentication/access/control audit functions. Should include working in conjunction with entities such as HITSP and CCHIT to develop “best practices” for incorporating their established standards into policy.

4. Developing Inter-Organizational Agreements (“Interoperability Policies”)
 - Define process and attributes of documents used to come to agreement on the necessary privacy policies and security practices needed to begin live data sharing.
 - Outline the privacy and security considerations that should be built into any HIE agreement.
 - The group will require close work with other groups working on authentication/access and consent standards in additional to formulating guidance on creating standard policies regarding cross-state connectivity issues that may endanger security, minimum data sets and the use of patient indexes to support patient privacy.

5. Communications – Engagement
Determine a framework for involving consumers in the planning and development of HIE initiatives such as:
 - Community consultation model and consider what communication media strategies would be most appropriate based on message content and target audience.
 - Possible development of “tool-kits” materials and development of “best practices” for facilitation, awareness and outreach.

6. Building Privacy and Security into an HIE Governance Structure
Using knowledge from Phases I and II of the Privacy and Security Project, develop an authoritative description of the major privacy and security issues that will be a necessary part of an HIE governance structure.

7. Communication (Dissemination and Core Message)
 - Dissemination – develop a strategy for determining a core message to promote HIE and interoperability to a wide range of stakeholders. Strategies for accomplishing this goal include an assessment of existing resources and messages and determining the feasibility and value of developing a common message.
 - Core Message – focus on strategies for training and disseminating messages. Will need to consider the side range of stakeholders such as consumers, physicians, hospitals, health plans, policy makers, attorneys, and employers. Will also need to consider what communication media and strategies would be most appropriate based on message content and target audience.