



Department of Health & Human Services
Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology

Session 4.1 Matching Patient Data





Panel Members

Moderator

Jamie Ferguson, Kaiser Permanente

Panelists

Don Grodecki, representing Computer Sciences Corporation (Browsersoft)

Casey Webster, Chief Architect, NHIN Team, IBM

William Beighe, CIO, Physicians Medical Group, Santa Cruz



Matching Patient Data

The need to correctly match patients with their data and data with their patients is a critical part of health information networking

There are a number of complicating factors including

- **protecting patient confidentiality**
- **the quality and availability of patient indices**
- **the complexity of data matching algorithms**
- **the variety of ways that newly generated data refers to patients**

This session will focus on different approaches for matching patient data without using a unique patient identifier, ways to minimize false positives and false negatives, and approaches to expressing the confidence level of matches



Specific Issues for the Panel

To help frame the discussion we have asked the panel to address some specific architectural issues related to matching patient data, including

- 1. Data needs for matching without a unique patient identifier**
- 2. Minimizing false positive and false negatives in the matching process for pulled and pushed data**
- 3. Methods for expressing confidence levels of a match**
- 4. Needs for matching the patient to the provider during the matching process**
- 5. Roles for manual adjudication for possible matches**
- 6. Variability in matching algorithms across networks**