

Federal Health Architecture: At-a-Glance



The Federal Health Architecture (FHA) Program supports federal health IT needs by providing a collaborative forum for creating a federal framework that is interoperable within the federal government, as well as between other public and private sector organizations.

FHA Membership

- **Lead Partners:** Department of Health & Human Services (HHS – *Managing Partner*), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- **Leadership:** Managed by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) and receives guidance from the Office of Management Budget (OMB)
- **Participating Agencies:** Approximately 20 federal agencies that have a healthcare line of business

FHA Activities

- **Improve Emergency Care for Citizens:** Identify the requirements for sharing, accessing and updating healthcare data by first responders and medical providers in times of emergency.
- **Accelerate Federal Health IT Standardization:** Help agencies develop and execute plans for the consistent and comprehensive adoption of national health IT standards.
- **Support the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN):** Provide a federal perspective on network requirements and identify opportunities to leverage the NHIN to create health IT interoperability between agencies and the private sector.
- **Support Standards Harmonization:** Contribute federal input to activities such as standards development, selection and gap analysis within the HITSP process.

FHA Value of Alignment with the President's Health IT Goals

- **Input:** FHA leverages federal expertise, coordinates business and technology aspects of the President's health IT plan and routes policy issues to the Health Information Technology Policy Council (HITPC), an ONC-led committee with representation from participating federal agencies.
- **Implementation:** FHA will plan an effective approach for incorporating the products of the private-public processes across federal agencies.
- **Accountability:** FHA supports a collaborative approach and leverages resources to achieve economies of scale for agency investments in common architectures, services and technologies aligned with the national health IT strategy.

FHA Achievements to Date

- Developed over 20 standards recommendations through the FHA Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI) Work Group (standards integrated with national standards, adopted by agencies and incorporated into agency procurements).
- Defined better business processes to protect the nation's food supplies while saving money through inter-department cooperation.
- Leading the federal perspective on proposed health IT standards and functional requirements for NHIN.
- Coordinating the adoption of national health IT standards by agencies, including the development of implementation plans.
- Developing requirements for a national standard for EHRs to be used by emergency responders.

Progression of Major Health IT Activities

- **April 2004:** Executive Order – Incentives for the Use of Health Information Technology and establishes ONC
- **July 2004:** *Framework for Strategic Action:* Create a private-public partnership to inform clinical practice, interconnect clinicians, personalize care and improve population health
- **October 2004:** Federal Health Information Exchange gives rise to Bidirectional Health Information Exchange – data exchange between VA and DoD
- **March 2005:** Health IT Leadership Panel – Federal government

should act as the leader, catalyst, and convener of the nation's health IT effort

- **September 2005:** American Health Information Community established
- **March 2006:** FHA refines strategic direction to align with the President's health IT plan
- **August 2006:** Executive Order – Promoting Quality and Efficient Health Care in Federal Government Administered or Sponsored Health Care Programs

How can I contact or find out more about FHA? Contact the FHA Program Management Office at:

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