

From Transparency to Value-Driven Health Care: A One Year Anniversary

Last week, HHS marked the one-year anniversary of the Executive Order (EO) that created the Value-Driven Health Care Initiative. In recognition of this milestone, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt issued a report outlining the actions that entities within the federal government have taken in response to the Executive Order. The report highlighted the specific steps that HHS, along with the Office of Personnel Management, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs have taken to help the nation advance toward a value-driven health care system.

The report was the last in a series of activities that emphasized the public and private sector progress in the first year of the Executive Order. Find the [full text](#) of the federal report on the HHS Web site.

Future of Health IT Moving Toward Public-Private Partnership

The week-long series of events celebrating the EO's first year began at the American Health Information Community (AHIC) on August 17. Secretary Leavitt's remarks to the group highlighted the importance of developing a successor entity that is capable of moving AHIC from the government space into the public space. This new legal entity will be an independent and sustainable public-private partnership, and it will identify and address business and technology-related issues that currently serve as barriers to the development of a nationwide interoperable health information system.

Moving forward, HHS will award a Cooperative Agreement to one or more entities. These entities will then organize a planning board that will work with HHS and other government participants to organize the successor entity. [Learn more](#) about the successor entity or to listen to Secretary Leavitt's remarks online.

Bridges to Excellence Hits Milestone

Also marking the EO's first year was Bridges to Excellence (BTE), which announced a key milestone in its efforts to improve health care delivery. BTE coordinates the nation's largest effort to reward physicians for delivering high-quality care. In the 19 regional areas it serves, BTE has brought together more than 100 employers and all national health plans. [Read more](#) about BTE's announcement online.

National Business Coalition on Health Unveils eValue8™ Cornerstone Report

The first-ever report evaluating and comparing how well health plans perform on the four cornerstones of Value-Driven Health Care was released last week by the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH). The non-profit group developed "eValue8," a standardized health plan performance measurement tool, for use by NBCH-member coalitions and other employers in assessing health plan performance on health care price and quality. The tool includes a set of 18 questions recommended by HHS and related to the Four Cornerstones of Value-Driven Health Care.

The [full text](#) of the report is available on NBCH's Web site. [Find more information](#) on the Value-Driven Health Care Initiative on HHS.gov.

Partnership Launches New Online Resource for Value-Driven Health Care

A new Web site launched last week by the Partnership for Value-Driven Health Care showed continued efforts to provide access to tools and information that will lead to improvements in America's health care. The site, www.valuedrivenhealth.org, is designed to arm private and public health care purchasers with the tools they need to adopt and use health information technology, measure and publish quality and price information, and create positive incentives for high-quality, efficient health care.

Partnership Chair and Business Round Table Director Maria Ghazal announced the new site, citing the need for consumers to access information. "Americans deserve to be able to compare the quality and price of health care services available to them," she said. "Informed consumers have the power to drive high-quality, efficient care, which can save not only dollars, but lives." [Visit](#) the new Partnership Web site today.

Isn't It Time? Declare Your Support.

[Sign up today](#) to be a part of the Value-Driven Health Care movement.



"Every American should have access to a full range of information about the quality and cost of their health care options."

Secretary Michael O. Leavitt