



*“Telehealth and Telemedicine: Adopting New Tools of the Trade”*

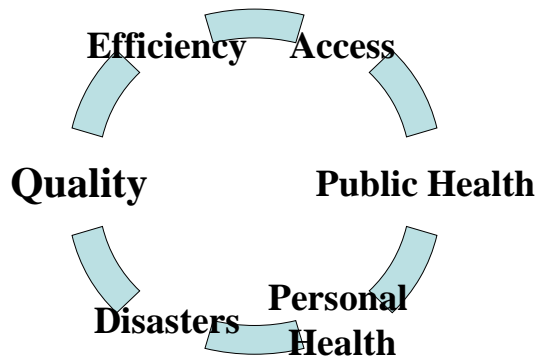
**Alliance for Health Reform**

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Russell 325



**What Is Driving All The Activity  
Healthcare Reform Meets HIT**





## Telemedicine

**Telemedicine is the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve patients' health status. Closely associated with telemedicine is the term "telehealth," which is often used to encompass a broader definition of remote healthcare that does not always involve clinical services.**

**Videoconferencing, transmission of still images, e-health including patient portals, remote monitoring of vital signs, continuing medical education and nursing call centers are all considered part of telemedicine and telehealth.**

**American Telemedicine Association**



## Electronic Health Record

**The Electronic Health Record (EHR) is a secure, real-time, point-of-care, patient centric information resource for clinicians. The EHR aids clinicians' decision making by providing access to patient health record information where and when they need it and by incorporating evidence-based decision support.**

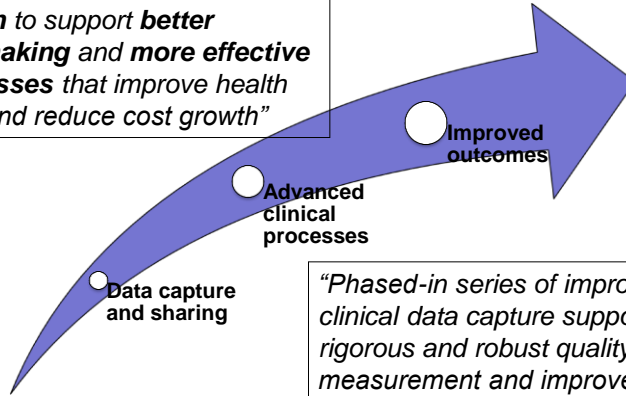
**The EHR automates and streamlines the clinician's workflow, closing loops in communication and response that result in delays or gaps in care. The EHR also supports the collection of data for uses other than direct clinical care, such as billing, quality management, outcomes reporting, resource planning, and public health disease surveillance and reporting.**

**Healthcare Information Management and Systems Society**

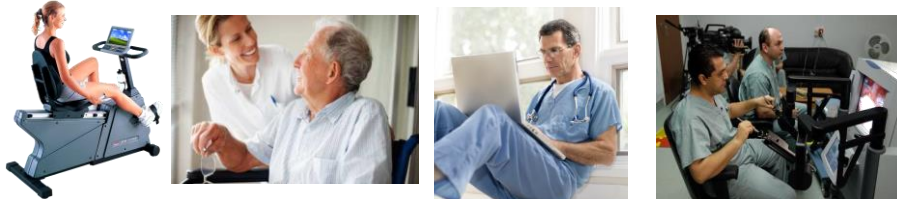
# Bending the Curve Towards Transformed Health

*Achieving Meaningful Use of Health Data*

*“These goals can be achieved only through **the effective use of information** to support **better decision-making** and **more effective care processes** that improve health outcomes and reduce cost growth”*



Connecting for Health, Markle Foundation “Achieving the Health IT Objectives of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act” April 2009



# Choose Appropriate (not Lithic) Technology

## Chicago Science Fair 1974



## Major Policy Issues

### Reimbursement & Capital Costs

- Aligning Financial Incentives – ARRA
- Driving Cost-Effectiveness (i.e. Chronic Care & Disease Mgmt)
- Start-up Costs; Capital Investment & Sustainability
- Federal Investments (DoD; VHA; IHS; DHHS)

### Standards (Clinical & Communications)

- Quality & Safety; IOM and FDA

### Infrastructure Issues

- Network Infrastructure / Broadband Access / Interoperability (FCC; DoC; RUS)

### Human Dimension Issues

- Arrangements to Practice in an e-enabled Environment
- Practitioner and Patient Acceptance
- Licensure, Accreditation, Certification
- Legal (Stark Law, Liability, FDA, HIPAA & Ongoing Security Concerns)
- Training an HIT Workforce (NSF; BHP)



## Put Positively

***“There are no problems.....just insurmountable opportunities”***

***– Pogo !***



### Numerous Players -- Use All of the Tools – The Aggregators

- **Federal Government**
  - Congress
  - Agencies (DHHS, DoC, Ag, DoD, VA, IHS, NASA, FDA, CMS)
    - Federal Interstate Licensure for TM ?
    - FDA on Medical Devices ?
  - Federal Jt. Working Group on Telehealth; DHHS Mobile Health
- **States**
  - Statewide Initiatives (Governors, Legislatures, Regional Networks)
  - Hundreds of bills specific to HIT
    - Prof.Licensure & Practice Rule Reforms for TM ?
  - NGA State Alliance
- **Private Sector - Insurance Reforms**
  - Coalitions / Consortia / Organizations (ATA, HIMSS, eHI, AHIMA, AMIA, Health IT Now ! Coalition; Rural HIT Coalition)
  - Capitol Hill Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics )
  - Standards Groups, CCHIT, HITSP, Promina, Continua, EHNAC
  - Foundations (Markle, RWJ, Commonwealth, eHI Fndt; RCHN)



## **Bipartisan Bill Next Week to Move Telehealth & Remote Monitoring Closer To Reality**

Rep. Greg Harper (et. al)

(Provisions That Should Save \$\$ or Cost Very Little)

- **Fewer Medicare Hospital Readmits / Shared Savings– Using Patient Monitoring**
- **Optional Medicaid Package for High-Risk Births building on Arkansas “ANGELS” Telehealth efforts – Savings \$186 M**
- **Medicare Bundled Payments for Post-Acute Care Pilot Using Telemedicine**
- **Allow ACOs to Use Telehealth for Medicare Advantage Plans**
- **Video Consults to Facilitate Home-based Kidney Dialysis**

» Source: American Telemedicine Association



## **Additional Creative Prospects for Telehealth in a Rapidly Changing Healthcare Environment**

- **CMMI and Other Programs That Address Cost, Access, Outcomes, and Productivity**
- **Telehealth for Medicare ACOs**
- **Telehealth for Medicare Bundled Pay**
- **Various Shared Savings Efforts Under Medicare**
- **Value-purchasing Programs**
- **Quality Reporting Efforts**

» Source: American Telemedicine Association



**Neal Neuberger, Executive Director**  
**Arnol Simmons, Manager Public Policy Initiatives**  
***Institute for e-Health Policy***  
4300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 250  
Arlington, VA 22203  
[neal@e-healthpolicy.org](mailto:neal@e-healthpolicy.org)  
[asimmons@e-healthpolicy.org](mailto:asimmons@e-healthpolicy.org)  
[www.e-healthpolicy.org](http://www.e-healthpolicy.org)