

Alliance for Health Reform

May 9th, 2005

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CONNECTING FOR HEALTHSM
MARKLE FOUNDATION *A Public-Private Collaborative*

The Challenge

Preventable Errors in Hospitals Kill 44,000 to 98,000 People Each Year

- (IOM)

More than 57,000 Americans die needlessly each year because they do not receive appropriate care

- (NCQA)

U.S. Adults Receive Barely Half of Recommended Care

- (McGlynn et al)

U.S. healthcare spending higher, but quality lower, compared with other industrialized countries

One-third of the \$1.6 trillion spent on healthcare each year is wasted on duplicative or ineffective care

- (CECS at Dartmouth)

What is *Connecting for Health*?

- A public-private collaborative committed to the creation of an interconnected, electronic health information infrastructure to improve health care.
- Broad Participation - More than 100 collaborators
 - Physicians, hospitals, and other providers
 - Patient and consumer groups
 - Payers
 - Accreditors
 - Government agencies
 - Researchers
 - IT systems manufacturers
- Founded and lead by the **Markle Foundation**, with additional support from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
- See www.connectingforhealth.org

Our Premise...

The creation of an *environment* with specific characteristics that will enable appropriate and authorized doctors, individuals (patients), pharmacies, public health agencies, and others to participate in and benefit from sharing information.

Eight Key Areas of Roadmap Recommendations



Design Principles of the *Connecting for Health* Model

1. Builds on existing systems (“incremental”) and creates early value for doctors and patients
2. Designed to safeguard privacy—imposed the requirements and then designed the solution
3. Consists of an interoperable, open standards-based “network of networks” built on the Internet
4. Leverages both “bottom-up” and “top-down” strategies

What Enables this Environment ?

Key Action Items:

1. **A “Common Framework” for connectivity**
2. **An Entity to specify the Standards and Policies**
3. An approach to connectivity that allows authorized parties to share information when they need to
4. Financial and non-financial Incentives that promote the use of interoperable IT in healthcare
5. Public trust and individual control and access

Element #1: A *"Common Framework"*

The health information environment will be enabled by:

- adoption of critical tools, including open technical standards for exchanging clinical information
- explicit policies on handling information
- uniform methods for linking information accurately and securely.

Privacy Policy

(Last updated 01/04/05)



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INFORMATION COLLECTION




ChoicePoint Data Cache Became a Powder K Identity Thief's Ability To Get Information Puts Heat on Firm

By Robert O'Harrow Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, March 5, 2005; Page A01

The man on the phone called himself James Garrett.

Speaking with a lilting accent, the man said he was an executive with a Angeles company called M.B.S Financial. He told an employee at ChoicePoint Inc. that he wanted to open an online account with the company to receive electronic reports on people.

It was the kind of request that ChoicePoint, one of the nation's largest information services, gets all the time. Thousands of corporate and government clients rely on the company to provide them with publicly available information on people for help in hiring, fraud

[enlarge photo](#) 



Element #2: A Standards and Policies Function must exist to make the decentralized environment work

- Develop basic standards and policies for sharing health information.
- Must be uniformly adopted and reflect public and private sector participation.
- Must be transparent, accountable, and operate in the public interest.

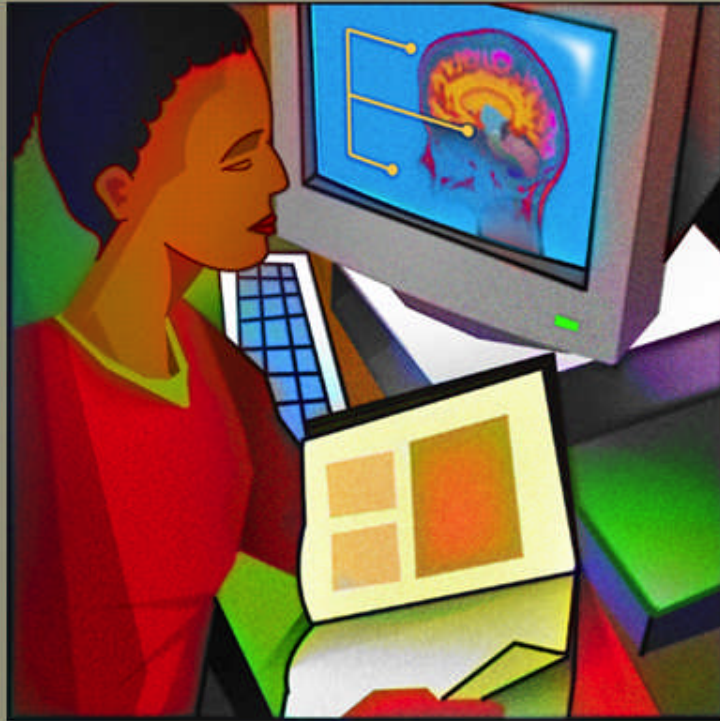
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The Economist, April 30, 2005

As the Markle Foundation puts it.....This goes to the very heart of the matter. For even though it is fine to start hoping for the day when interoperable electronic health records create vast pools of medical information that could be used to find new cures and battle epidemics in real time, their ultimate purpose is to make one simple and shockingly overdue change: to enable individuals, at last, to have access to, and possession of, information about their own health.



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