**ASTP** Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy

# The Road Ahead: Mapping the Federal Government's Health IT Journey to Drive Systemic Improvements in Health and Care

Stephanie Lee, Branch Chief, Strategic Planning

Dustin Charles, Senior Policy Analyst, Strategic Planning

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# Executive Summary

Health information technology (health IT) is an array of tools that enable the processing, storage, access, exchange, and use of electronic health information (EHI).[i] Health IT is used to promote health and wellness, enhance the delivery and experience of care, and accelerate research and innovation. The federal government can create systemic improvements in health and care by strategically aligning its health IT policies, programs, and investments.

*The 2024-2030 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan includes four goals:*

- **Promote Health and Wellness**
- **Enhance the Delivery and Experience of Care**
- **Accelerate Research and Innovation**
- **Connect the Health System with Health Data**

*Goals 1-3* *address plans to improve the experiences and outcomes for health IT users.[ii]*

*Goal 4* *focuses on the policy and technology components needed to support those various health IT users.*

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# Purpose of the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan

The *2024-2030 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan* guides federal government efforts toward EHI access, exchange, and use that improves:

Individual access to EHI

Public health

Whole-person care delivery by connecting human services data

Health care delivery, experience, competition, and affordability

Health research

Health equity [iv]

Health data quality

This plan emphasizes ethical and equitable design, implementation, and the secure and private use of health IT that serves all populations.

# Federal Health IT Principles

**Person-centered, inclusive design**

Strengthen individuals' ability to securely access and use their own health information to take greater control over their own health, while ensuring that their data are accurate. Consider the whole individual, including their goals, preferences, values, culture, and privacy. Include health IT users in all aspects of the design, development, and use of health IT.

**Safety and quality**

Promote the use of high-quality health data that are accurate and provide benefits to individuals and their communities. Promote the use of health IT that improves health care safety and quality. Bring together scientific, public health, and health care communities to efficiently translate evidence into better health experiences and outcomes.

**Privacy and security**

Provide tools, guidance, and regulations to build trust and protect individuals' health information from compromise, loss, or unauthorized access.[ix]

**Data-informed decision-making**

Support health information sharing among individuals, health care providers, payers, public health professionals, researchers, and other health IT users so they can make informed decisions and create better health outcomes.

**Increase health equity across all populations**

Promote the use of data to address health equity, social needs, and the conditions in which people live, learn, work, and play. Factors such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, disability, Veteran status, genetic information, economic status, broadband connectivity, language, and location all impact the quality of, access to, and experience with health and human services for individuals.

**Encourage innovation and competition**

Support and protect innovation and competition in health IT that result in new solutions and business models for better care and improved outcomes.

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# Federal Health IT Strategic Plan Framework

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**GOAL 1 OBJECTIVES**

- **A** Individuals are empowered to manage their health
- **B** Individuals and populations experience modern and equitable health care
- **C** Communities are healthier and safer

**GOAL 2 OBJECTIVES**

- **A** Providers deliver safe, equitable, high-quality, and improved care
- **B** Patients experience expanded access to quality care and reduced or eliminated health disparities
- **C** Health care is improved through greater competition and transparency
- **D** Providers experience reduced regulatory and administrative burden
- **E** The health care workforce uses health IT with confidence

**GOAL 1**
**Promote Health and Wellness**

**GOAL 2**
**Enhance the Delivery and Experience of Care**

**GOAL 3**
**Accelerate Research and Innovation**

**GOAL 4**
**Connect the Health System with Health Data**

**GOAL 3 OBJECTIVES**

- **A** Researchers and other health IT users have appropriate access to high-quality health data to drive individual and population health improvement
- **B** Individual and population-level research, analysis, and its application are enhanced by health IT
- **C** Researchers advance health equity by using health data that includes underrepresented groups

**GOAL 4 OBJECTIVES**

- **A** Development and use of health IT capabilities continues to advance
- **B** Health IT users have clear and shared expectations for data sharing
- **C** Underserved communities and populations have access to infrastructure that supports health IT use
- **D** Individuals' EHI is protected, private, and secure
- **E** Communities are supported by modern and integrated public health data systems and infrastructure

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# Federal Health IT Strategic Plan Panelists



**Dustin Charles**
- *Senior Policy Analyst*
- *Strategic Planning and Coordination*
- ASTP

**Jim Jirjis**
- *Division Director*
- *Data Policy and Standards*
- CDC

**Meg Marshal**
- *Director*
- *Informatics Regulatory Affairs*
- VA

**Goli Yamini**
- *Associate Program Director*
- *Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering*
- NSF

**CAPT Heather Dimeris**
- *Director*
- *Advancement of Telehealth*
- HRSA

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