



Health IT Policy Committee

A Public Advisory Body on Health Information Technology to the National Coordinator for Health IT

September 7, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The HIT Policy Committee and the HIT Standards Committee (Committees) gave the following broad charge to the Enrollment Workgroup (Workgroup):

Broad Charge for the Enrollment Workgroup:

The Enrollment Workgroup is charged with developing interoperable and secure standards and protocols to facilitate electronic enrollment of individuals in Federal and State health and human services programs.

Since its inception in June 2010, the Workgroup conducted eight public meetings to discuss a health and human services eligibility and enrollment process that:

- Features a transparent, understandable and easy to use online process that enables consumers to make informed decisions about applying for and managing benefits;
- Accommodates the range of user capabilities, languages and access considerations;
- Offers seamless integration between private and public insurance options;
- Connects consumers not only with health coverage, but also other human services such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program; and
- Provides strong privacy and security protections.

These discussions led to the attached document outlining the initial Recommendations and Appendices, which were reported, discussed, and subsequently approved by the Committees on August 19th and August 30th, 2010, respectively.

The attached document provides initial recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the forward thinking, actionable steps the Federal government can take to ensure a more efficient, consumer-mediated and transparent enrollment process for health and human services programs.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these initial Recommendations to the Department, and look forward to discussing next steps.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Paul Tang
Vice Chair, HIT Policy Committee

/s/

Jonathan Perlin
Chair, HIT Standards Committee

Attachment: Enrollment Workgroup Recommendations & Appendices