

# UK National Health Service Information Standards

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## Outline

- Emergent NHS IT strategies
- Delivery structures
- Standards approval mechanism.

## Emergent NHS IT strategies

- *Getting Better with Information* (1992)
  - Patient-centred operational systems
  - Using information technology to support care
  - Optimising cost-effectiveness
  - Managing expectations
- *Information for Health* (1998)
  - An information strategy for the modern NHS
  - A national strategy for local implementation
- *Building the Information Core* (2001)
  - Implementing the NHS Plan
- *National Implementation Plan* (2002).

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**Information for Health - 1998**

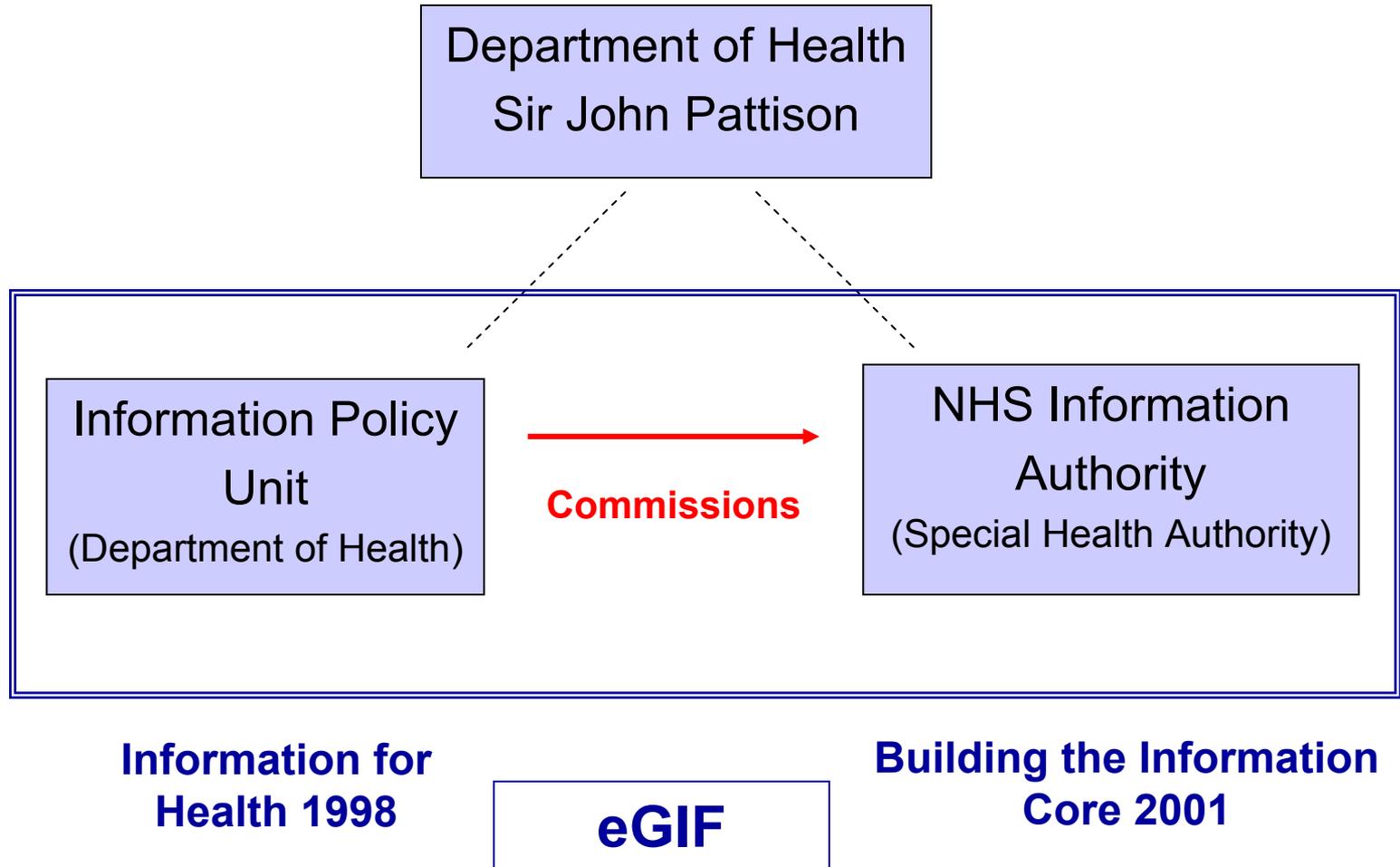
## Aims

- Lifelong electronic health records
- Round-the-clock on-line access to:
  - Patient records
  - Information about best practice
- Seamless care for patients through GPs, hospitals and community services
- Fast and convenient public access to information
- Providing health planners and managers with the information they need.

## Principles

- Information will be person-based
- Systems will be integrated
- Management information will be derived from operational systems
- Information will be secure and confidential
- Information will be shared across the NHS.

# High level delivery structure



## Local implementation strategies (LIS's)

- Match local strategies to local priorities
- Take account of existing infrastructure & systems
- Plans to meet IfH targets
- Plans for integration (e.g. acute, community)
- Supporting clinical governance
- Enhancing data quality.

## NHS environment today

- Diversity and instability
  - > 300 new Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)
  - 28 new Strategic Health Authorities
  - New contractual arrangements for family doctors
- General Election in 3 - 4 years
- Government commitment to NHS IT
- Aggressive targets around 2005
- Review of implementation approach
  - Centralist management
  - Ruthless standardisation
  - Procurement through 2 - 5 suppliers.

# National Strategic Programme - Architecture

**National Direction and Performance Management of IT**  
- manage funding, procurement process, application portfolio  
- assist introduction of new working practices  
- capture & re-use experience / knowledge

**Partner with eGov & IT Industry to deliver compliant, open systems & clinical applications**  
- National, Regional, Local, phased approach  
- EPR standard system specification first priority

**Provide Prescriptions Service**

**Provide Bookings Service**

**Build Life-long Health Record Service**

**Create foundation services for NHS IT architecture - authentication, consent & confidentiality**

**Accelerate connecting the NHS with secure Broadband**  
**Build National data and data-interchange standards based on open technology**

# Multi-agency involvement

National Patient Safety Agency **NHS**



**NHS**  
*NHS Purchasing  
and Supply Agency*

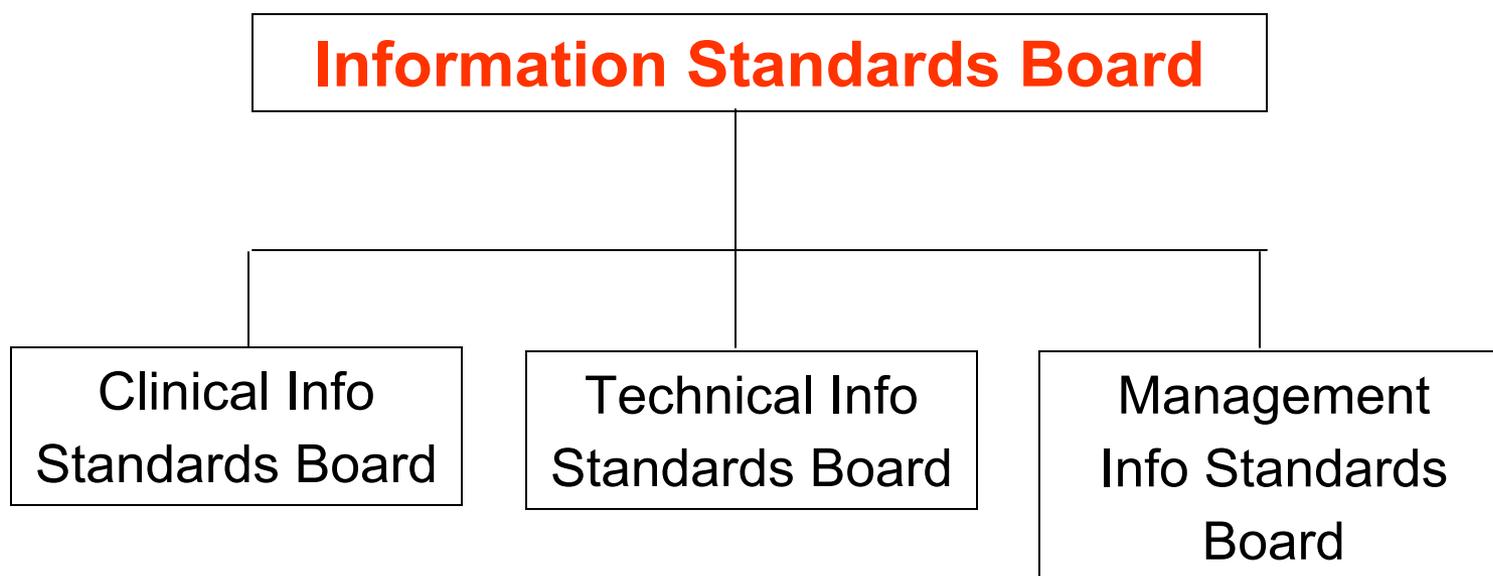
**NHS**  
*National Institute for  
Clinical Excellence*

**NHS**  
*Information Standards Boards*



**NHS**  
*Modernisation Agency*

# Standards approval structure



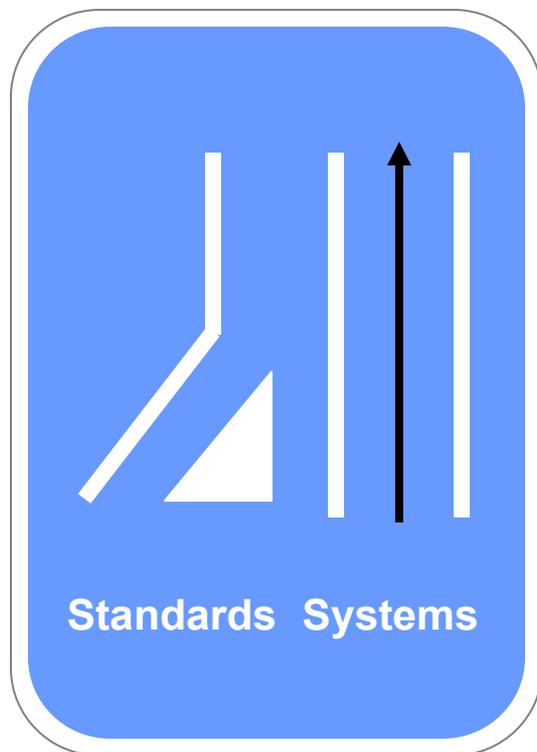
## Standards process

- User requirement
- Specification
- *Development*
- Approval as draft standard
- Approval as full standard
- Conformance testing/monitoring.

## International involvement

- CEN
- ISO
- HL7
- Etc . . .

## Integrating standards and systems



- Standards need to be interoperable
- Standards development and testing ideally requires a live setting
- Re-engineering around new standards:
  - Is potentially costly
  - May invalidate evaluation.

## Summary

- Over 10 years of UK national health IT strategies
- Current focus on implementation:
  - Centralised management
  - Ruthless standardisation
  - Industry has key role
- Separate standards approval mechanism
  - Needs evidence of: live implementation, plans for human behavioural aspects; stakeholder engagement
- Standards integration a significant challenge.



# *Information Authority*

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Helping to Modernise the NHS

NCVHS August 2002