

Roadmap for eHealth Standards Adoption and Implementation NCVHS has clearly heard from stakeholders on the concept of eHealth. Through their comments, certain themes have emerged to become the genesis of a roadmap for future standards. The themes centered on the need for a consumer-centric, information driven ecosystem that supports anytime, anyplace, and anywhere access to the right information about the right person through a seamless interoperable, secure, efficient and sustainable system of technology, infrastructure, applicable tools and devices. The themes are:

1. sound policy and regulatory harmonization;
2. flexibility and agility to embrace urgency;
3. disparity of means to execute and adopt;
4. patient and consumer focus;
5. effective evolution perspective on short versus long term; and
6. useful data and effective stewardship.

The themes are not seen in isolation but are interactive and interdependent. Consequently, NCVHS has taken the emerging themes to develop the following guiding principles for eHealth. The themes of sound policy and regulatory harmonization, flexibility and agility to embrace urgency, and disparity of means to execute and adopt result in the following guiding principles:

1. eHealth policies facilitate evolutionary, practical, and pragmatic changes in the industry based on clearly defined concepts, objectives and measurable results;
2. eHealth policies facilitate transformative changes that have a clearly stated vision and goals that crisply define current and future states;
3. major changes are optimized and aligned to minimize administrative burden to the industry and maximize desired outcomes;
4. eHealth changes clearly define stakeholders, opportunities and risks;
5. eHealth changes deploy practical and pragmatic approaches and mitigate implementation and adoption risks while focusing on administrative/clinical processes to achieve the Triple Aim of better care, better health, and lower costs; and
6. eHealth changes are optimally defined to achieve greater good for the whole while recognizing that changes may not be possible for every entity.

The themes of patient and consumer focus; effective evolutionary perspective on short versus long term, and useful data and effective stewardship result in guiding principles that eHealth:

1. Policies facilitate or enable capabilities that empower consumers with actionable information in engaging health care; improve providers ability to deliver high quality care and outcomes; optimize cost and reduce waste; and, improve patient safety
2. Transformation establishes and articulates a roadmap of short-term and long term changes, minimizes or avoids “throw away” work, allows for course-correction, and anticipates industry and technological advances;

3. Facilitates effective purposeful data exchanges and uses to empower and inform health care and public health objectives; and,
4. Utilizes effective data management and stewardship practices to gain stakeholder confidence and trust.

Fundamental to the development of an eHealth roadmap is a common understanding and agreement of the definitions of eHealth. NCVHS envisions eHealth as the means to improve quality of care and health outcomes by providing the mechanism for sharing accurate data and by utilization of dynamic health care standards that have been statistically validated, tested, and maintained as health care interventions continue to evolve. NCVHS also sees eHealth as an opportunity to be the framework for payment by addressing and integrating the full spectrum of patient-centric health delivery with measureable outcomes.

NCVHS believes an eHealth roadmap would be a graphical depiction of standards-based and policy initiatives into the future that would improve sequencing and alignment; take a broad view; serve as a shared vision; and communicate priorities. The eHealth roadmap is also seen as a balanced scoreboard that embraces stakeholders, learning, growth, process, and results.

NCVHS believes that inherent to any roadmap is the assurance of transparency, stakeholder engagement, education, timing and developing standards so that they add value. This involves transparency on who will be affected by the initiative to mitigate the impact of multiple initiatives from different streams. In addition, there is the need for various agencies, stakeholders, and organizations to work together towards a common goal and the need to consider the return on investment in terms of quality care and lower costs. Consequently, NCVHS believes the objectives of a roadmap should be to:

1. Identify information required to support a transformed health care system and the changes in current information processing necessary to satisfy those requirements;
2. Understand key mandates, milestones, and timelines to ensure effective execution, adoption and potential modifications to obtain better alignment to support future information needs; and
3. Be transparent regarding challenges, issues and opportunities.