

**Summary of Senate Health Committee Staff Draft: Bipartisan Legislation to Improve Health Information Technology for Patients and Families**

- 1) Assisting Doctors and Hospitals in Improving Quality of Care for Patients**
  - a. Reduces documentation burdens by convening public and private stakeholders to develop goals, a strategy, and recommendations to minimize the documentation burden on providers while maintaining quality.
  - b. Allows and encourages health professionals to practice at the top of their license, allowing non-physician members of the care team, such as nurses, to document on behalf of physicians.
  - c. Encourages the certification of health information technology (HIT) for specific specialty providers, like pediatricians, where more specialized technology is needed.
  
- 2) Transparent Ratings on Usability and Security to Transform Information Technology (TRUST IT)**
  - a. Establishes an unbiased rating system for HIT products to help providers better choose HIT products.
  - b. Allows HIT users to share feedback on the user experience of specific HIT products related to security, usability, and interoperability, among other concerns.
  
- 3) Information Blocking**
  - a. Gives the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General the authority to investigate and establish deterrents to information blocking practices that interfere with appropriate sharing of electronic health information
  
- 4) Interoperability**
  - a. Convenes existing data sharing networks to develop a model framework and common agreement for the secure exchange of health information across existing networks to help foster a “network of networks.”
  - b. Creates a digital provider directory to both facilitate exchange and allow users to verify the correct recipient.
  - c. Requires that HHS give deference to standards developed in the private sector.
  - d. Combines the HIT Policy Committee and HIT Standards Committee into the HIT Advisory Committee.
  - e. Creates a process for prioritizing the adoption of standards to focus on the most pressing problems faced by the health care community.
  - f. Establishes an initial set of common data elements, such as a standard format for entering date of birth, to facilitate interoperability and streamline quality reporting.
  
- 5) Leveraging Health Information Technology to Improve Patient Care**
  - a. Requires that certified HIT transmit and receive data from certified physician registries and that registries be certified to transmit and receive from certified HIT.

- b. Includes vendors in Patient Safety Organizations to allow for improvements in the safety and effectiveness of HIT.
- 6) **Empowering Patients and Improving Patient Access to Their Electronic Health Information**
- a. Supports the certification and development of patient-centered health record technology so that patients can access their health information through secure and user-friendly software that may update automatically.
  - b. Encourages the use of Health Information Exchanges to promote patient access by educating providers and clarifying misunderstandings.
  - c. Requires HHS to clarify situations where it is permissible for providers to share patient information by providing best practices and common cases where sharing is allowed.
- 7) **Encouraging Trust Relationships for Certified Electronic Health Records (EHR)**
- a. Supports the secure exchange of electronic health information by certifying that one EHR product is capable of trusted exchange with multiple other EHR products.
- 8) **GAO Study on Patient Matching**
- a. Directs the Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study to review methods for securely matching patient records to the correct patient.