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HEALTH
SOLUTIONS
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Rural HIT: Navigating the Road to Improvement
From the Beltway To Your Front Door

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Agenda

- Background
- National Health IT Landscape
- Federal Government
- Congressional Activity
- State Activity
- Private Sector
- Regional Health Information Exchange
- EHRs
- Global Activity

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My Hometown



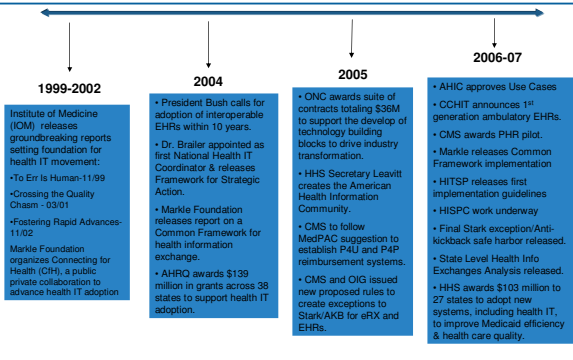
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Health Care Landscape...The Case for Health IT

- Increasing complexity of clinical care**
 - 17 years to translate medical research into medical practice
 - Physician Desk Reference more than doubled in 20 years to 3,075 pages
- Incomplete knowledge of patients**
 - Patient data unavailable in 81% of cases; average of 4 missing items per case
 - 18% of medical errors are due to inadequate availability of patient information
- Patient safety & medical errors**
 - Patients receive only 55% of recommended care
 - 44,000 – 98,000 annual inpatient deaths due to a preventable medical error
 - Medication errors in 5 – 18% of ambulatory patients; resulting in 1 in 131 deaths
- Increasing cost of care**
 - Continued double-digit growth in health care expenditures
 - 30% of health expenditures categorized as “unnecessary spending” = \$7.4 trillion aggregate in US from 2004 - 2013

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National Health IT Landscape
Evolution and Momentum



1999-2002

- Institute of Medicine (IOM) releases groundbreaking reports setting foundation for health IT movement.
- To Err is Human-11/99
- Crossing the Quality Chasm - 03/01
- Fostering Rapid Advances-11/02
- Markle Foundation organizes Connecting for Health (CFH), a public-private collaboration to advance health IT adoption

2004

- President Bush calls for adoption of interoperable EHRs within 10 years.
- Dr. Brailer appointed as first National Health IT Coordinator & releases Framework for Strategic Action.
- Markle Foundation releases report on a Common Framework for health information exchange.
- AHRQ awards \$139 million in grants across 38 states to support health IT adoption.

2005

- ONC awards suite of contracts totaling \$36M to support the develop of technology building blocks to drive industry transformation.
- HHS Secretary Leavitt creates the American Health Information Community.
- CMS to follow MedPAC suggestion to establish PAU and P4P reimbursement systems.
- CMS and OIG issued new proposed rules to create exceptions to Stark/AKB for eRX and EHRs.

2006-07

- AHIC approves Use Cases
- CCHIT announces 1st generation ambulatory EHRs.
- CMS awards PHR pilot.
- Markle releases Common Framework implementation
- HITSP releases first implementation guidelines
- HSPC work underway
- Final Stark exception/Anti-kickback safe harbor released.
- State Level Health Info Exchanges Analysis released.
- HHS awards \$103 million to 27 states to adopt new systems, including health IT, to improve Medicaid efficiency & health care quality.

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National Health IT Landscape
Major Trends

- **Emergence of New Data Aggregators**
 - “Exchange” v. “Value”
- **Consumerism**
 - “Portability” of Health Information
- **Privacy & Security**
 - Beyond HIPAA
- **Payment Reforms**
 - Quality Initiatives and Pay for Performance

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National Health IT Landscape

Major Trends

- > **Moving from Macro to Micro**
 - > HIT not just a stand-alone issue but integrated into other "hot" policy initiatives such as SCHIP and Medicare reform
- > **Impact of Presidential Politics and the Not So Very Long Good-Bye**
- > **HIT Going "Global"**
 - > U.S. Government and philanthropy sharing lessons learned internationally, plans for HIT and better health moving forward on every continent and in over 30 countries large and small

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Policy Arena

Privacy and Security

Congressional Activity

- February 2007 GAO Report and hearings
- Senate HELP bill introduced 7/18/07 as the "Health Information Privacy and Security Act" to create new privacy safeguards better protecting health information in the digital age and to establish "Office of Health Information Privacy" within HHS

Administration

- Concerted response to privacy and security criticism
- AHRQ's Ambulatory Safety and Quality Grants
- Privacy and security priority evidenced in new AHIC Use Cases

States

- Focal point for developing privacy and security solutions

- Increased scrutiny on data aggregation and consent policies
- Health IT legislation could extend privacy regulations to non-covered entities

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National Health IT Landscape

Current Executive Branch Drivers

- > **Federal Reliance on Market Forces.** For last 3 years, federal government has focused on developing HIT infrastructure through market driven solutions; very little new federal money involved/available
- > **Federal Investment Focused on Policy/Technical Infrastructure.** Federal investments have been to support health and system improvements through HIT standard setting, product certification, state-led privacy/security policy and nationwide health information network demonstrations.
- > **Federal Leadership.** Federal government is leveraging regulations, executive order and demonstration authority, leadership position, and federal purchasing power to accelerate portability of health information and quality care initiatives.
- > **Identifying HIT's links to Quality & Performance Improvement..."Value"** Federal HIT seen through the prism of drive towards "value-driven health care system based on transparency."

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National Health IT Landscape

"Value-Driven Health Care" Initiative

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National Health IT Landscape

Growth of Pay-for-Performance Initiatives

Year	Number of Initiatives
2003	40
2004*	90
2005**	110
2006***	160

*As of November 2004 ** As of March 2005 *** Projected by Med-Vantage

Sources: Journal of American Medical Association (www.jama-assn.org) and Med-Vantage (www.medvantagelnc.com)

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Policy Arena

Quality-based Reimbursement

Federal

- **Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI):** As part of Tax Relief and Health Care Act 2006, CMS will establish a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality reporting program.

States

- **Medicaid Transformation Grants:** CMS allocated \$96 million over 2 years to 33 states. Seven states (CT, FL, MS, NM, ND, TN, UT) supporting eRx and other prescribing projects with funds.
- **Medicaid P4P:** Operational in 13 states (CA, IO, ME, MD, MA, MI, NM, NY, NC, PA, RI, TX, VT and DC)

Private Sector

- **Growing P4P Implementation:** Nationally, 104 programs in 2005; 160 programs in 2006.

- Quality-based reimbursement growing, but policy & technical challenges remain
- Targeting key regional P4P efforts is optimal strategy

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National Health IT Landscape

Executive Branch – Health IT Initiatives

- **AHIC** – American Health Information Community
- **HITSP** – Health IT Standards Panel
- **CCHIT** – Certification Commission for Health IT
- **NHIN** – Nationwide Health Information Network Prototypes
- **HISPC** – Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration

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National Health IT Landscape

Integration of Executive Branch Health IT Initiatives

Source: ONC, Second Nationwide Health Information Network Forum, Oct 2006

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National Health IT Landscape

American Health Information Community

- **Federal Advisory Committee** appointed and chaired by HHS Secretary Leavitt
- **Two year charter** to advise HHS, public meetings every quarter
- **17 members** (nine public sector & eight private sector appointees)
- **Seven Workgroups** involving over 120 experts
- **Achievements**
 - Approve 3 harmonized use cases (3/19/06)
 - Approve Workgroup recommendations (5/16/06)
 - Approve creation of Emergency-Responder use case (9/12/06)
 - Approve HITSP standards for first 3 use cases (10/31/06)
 - Recommend 3 new use cases (1/23/07)

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National Health IT Landscape

Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP)

Standards Harmonization

- ANSI convenes HITSP to bring together US Standards Development Organizations and other stakeholders

HITSP also:

- Delivers implementation guidance to AHIC
- Works with CCHIT to establish interoperability in the CCHIT criteria via the joint CCHIT/HITSP working group

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National Health IT Landscape

CCHIT

Compliance Certification

- ONC compliance certification contract focuses on eHR compliance certification and involves CCHIT
- October 23, 2006 - CCHIT announced that 33 ambulatory eHR products have now been CCHIT certified
- June 28, 2007 - CCHIT announced criteria for certified inpatient eHR products and accepted applications beginning August 1, first certified products expected in October 2007

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National Health IT Landscape

HISPC

Privacy and Security Solutions

- Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) is a partnership consisting of a multi-disciplinary team of experts and National Governor's Association (NGA) in collaboration with ONC and AHRQ, overseen by RTI International
- HISPC works with 34 states and 1 territorial government to assess and develop plans to address variations in organization-level business policies and state laws that affect privacy and security practice which may pose challenges to interoperable health information exchange
- HISPC has released a set of reports that summarize the work and plans generated by 34 states and territories engaged in the project and give guidance for ensuring the safety and security of electronic health information exchange

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National Health IT Landscape
Future Activities – AHIC, HITSP, CCHIT

- AHIC will be transitioned to an “independent, sustainable public-private partnership in the private sector” by Fall 2008
- In the interim, AHIC continues to identify obstacles to the adoption of interoperable HIT and making recommendations to HHS Secretary
- **According to HHS, AHIC successor should:**
 - Exist for the purpose of individual/consumer benefit
 - Establish and enhance trust among stakeholders
 - Have broad participation across health care industry stakeholders
- **HITSP (standards) and CCHIT (certification)** - HITSP and CCHIT have joint working group, are aligning schedules and working more closely under a recent MOU

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National Health IT Landscape
Congressional Activities

2007 LANDSCAPE – CONGRESS
Impact of Partisan Switch of Power

- Democrats now occupy all majority leadership, committee and subcommittee chair posts in House and Senate
- Healthcare one of Democrat’s primary federal legislative priorities
- Democrats want to: increase affordable healthcare (emphasizing expanded health coverage for children), encourage Medicare prescription drug accessibility and examine the mechanics of the Part D benefit
- **Back to the Future** – Healthcare terms of the past have come back to roost as policy issues once more (e.g. universal coverage, mental health parity, health insurance risk pools and health disparities but with a continued focus on health care quality and consumer empowerment. Privacy and rural and underserved areas also have a brighter spotlight.
- Progress will require some bipartisan cooperation as 110th Congress (2007-2008) features some of the smallest Congressional majorities in history
- Healthcare issues prominent but competing for time on legislative agenda with foreign policy (Iraq) and economic issues

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National Health IT Landscape
Congressional Activities

2007 LANDSCAPE – CONGRESS
Health Committee Leadership

Senate

- Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Senate Finance Chair
- Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) Senate Finance Ranking Member
- Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Senate HELP Chair

House

- Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-NY), House Ways and Means Chair
- Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chair
- Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), House Energy and Commerce Chair
- Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Chair

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National Health IT Landscape
Congressional Activities

2007 LANDSCAPE – CONGRESS
What Can We Expect on Healthcare and HIT in 2007?

- Democrats focus increased attention on health data privacy and security issues, as part of HIT legislation OR as a free-standing bill
- HIT and quality issues likely come up in laundry list of legislation as a subcomponent (Medicaid, CHIP, healthcare access, Medicare RX) rather than in a free-standing bill
- **Universal Access/Coverage Version 2.0**
- Senate HELP Chair Ted Kennedy (D-MA) focused on bi-partisan health care reform and working towards “providing healthcare for all”
- Senate Budget Committee held hearing on universal healthcare coverage this week and briefings abound by the Beltway cognescenti
- Presidential candidates joining in the debate

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National Health IT Landscape
Congressional Activities

2007 LANDSCAPE – CONGRESS
What Can We Expect on Healthcare and HIT in 2007?

SCHIP

- House and Senate passed SCHIP reauthorization bills in early August
- House bill contains provisions related to HIT-enhanced medical homes and a study examining feasibility of implementing an HIT system for all healthcare providers under the Medicare program
- House and Senate bill must be conferenced by program expiration date (9/30/07)

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National Health IT Landscape
Congressional Activities

House Bills/Actions in 2007

- Rep Kennedy (D-RI) introduced a bill to provide physicians with financial incentives to build interactive personal health records in March 2007 [**H.R. 1638**]
- Reps. Charlie Gonzalez (D-TX) and Phil Gingrey (R-GA) introduced a bill (HR 1952) in April 2007 that would offer grants, loans and tax incentives to help offset the costs of implementing health IT

Senate Bills/Actions in 2007

- Senate HELP Committee unanimously passed the “Wired for Healthcare Quality Act of 2007” on June 27, 2007
- Sen. Stabenow (D-MI) and Snowe (R-ME) intend to reintroduce legislation that rewards physicians for investing in health IT
- Sen. Coleman (R-MN) introduced S 628 to establish a grant program to aid rural providers in adopting health IT

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National Health IT Landscape Presidential Campaigns

- Healthcare reform hot topic on the campaign trail and in early debates
- HIT part of all three leading Democratic health care plans (Clinton, Obama, Edwards)

Common HIT themes in plans are:

- Requiring providers who participate in federal programs to adopt interoperable IT that is secure and protects privacy
- Health IT grants and financial incentives to doctors and hospitals implementing HIT
- Healthcare savings through use of HIT (\$77 - \$162 billion annually)

- Plans of leading Republican candidates (Giuliana, McCain and Romney) not address HIT explicitly although McCain supports "putting healthcare on-line"

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National Health IT Landscape Presidential Campaigns

Rural/Telemedicine provisions in Presidential healthcare plans include:

- **Edwards** - Plans to assist rural hospitals to purchase and implement telemedicine systems and establish 15 regional telemedicine centers across US to share best practices
- **Obama** - Ensuring HIT systems are developed in coordination with rural and underserved areas

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Health IT and the Private Sector Market Forces

- **Payers and Purchasers**
- **Providers**
 - Hospitals and clinics
 - Physician practices
- **Health IT Vendors**
 - System integrators
 - Software firms (EHRs, Disease Management, eRx, etc.)
 - Internet firms and others (Google, Revolution Health, etc.)
- **Initiatives**
 - Continua
 - Dossia
 - National ePrescribing Safety Initiative (NEPSI)

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The Health IT Market Transformation

Current Confusion
Evolving and Competing Landscape

Future Vision
Improved Access and Use of Health Information

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The Road to Regional Health Information Exchange

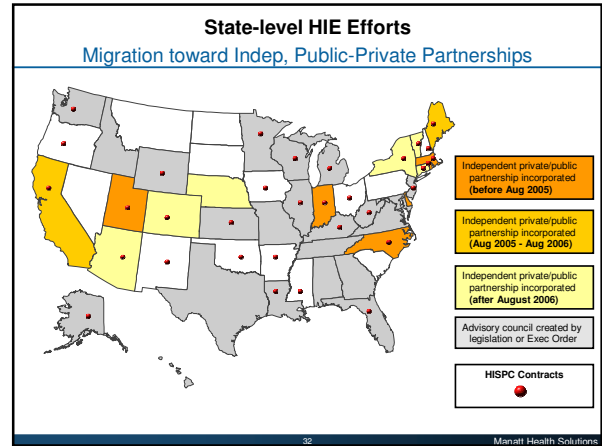
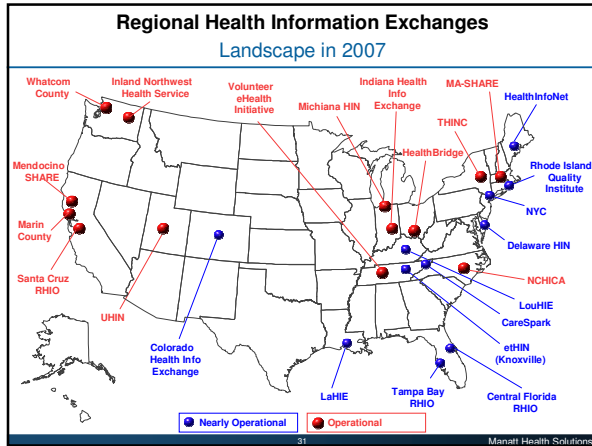
- **Electronic Health Records (EHRs)**
 - The **applications** that automate the collection of health information.
- **Health information exchanges (HIE)**
 - The **infrastructural technology** that facilitate secure, reliable, and timely data sharing
- **Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs)**
 - The **governance entities** that address the local business, policy, and financial aspects of enable health information exchange

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Regional Health Information Exchange Landscape

- **Number is growing, but many are in formative stages**
- **Broad variation in marketplace with respect to size, stakeholder mix, mission, roles, and organization and technical approaches**
- **Rich diversity of leaders in the field**
 - CalRHIO
 - CareSpark
 - Indiana Health Information Exchange
 - Inland Northwest Health Services
 - MA-SHARE
 - NCHICA
 - THINC RHIO
 - Utah Health Information Network
- **States emerging as critical focal point**

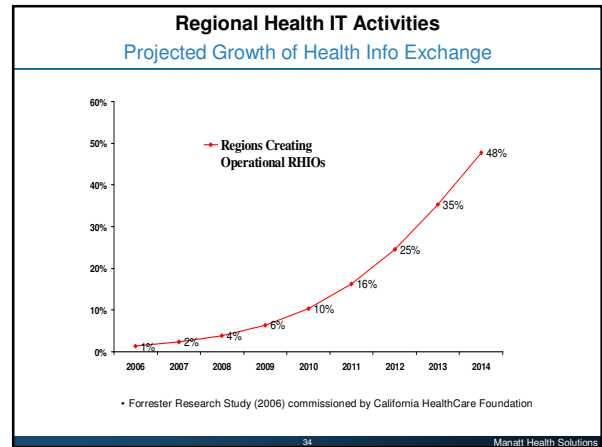
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When Will Regional Health Info Exchanges Arrive

Growth depends on

- Progress of digitization...Very slow
- Cost of HIE.....Complex + new = expensive
- Funding.....Little from Feds, some from States
- Business models.....New and untested
- Privacy and security.....Just as complex as the technology



Global Health IT Landscape Areas of Global Collaboration

“Medical diplomacy” should be used in conjunction with our existing foreign and defense policies to achieve progress and win the hearts and minds of people worldwide. Good medicine makes better neighbors.”
Former U.S. Secretary of HHS Tommy Thompson, October 20, 2005

Medical diplomacy is defined as exporting medical care, knowledge and personnel to help those most in need in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere.

Global Health IT Landscape Areas of Global Collaboration

The following are areas for global support and collaboration around HIT:

- Developing a multi-national approach based on geographic location and cultural similarity
- Developing formal agenda for funding HIT initiatives in different countries
- Facilitating alignment between public and private sector activities
- Encouraging a more active role from organizations like WHO, USAID, the World Bank and UN bodies in developing countries
- Encouraging national EMR systems that are developed to incorporate globally accepted data standards and interoperability protocols

National Health IT
Resources for Rural Health Professionals

Index of U.S. Senate & House of Representatives Contact Info by State

- > <http://www.senate.gov/>
- > <http://www.house.gov/>

Index of Federal Legislation

- > <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

American Health Information Community

- > <http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/community/background/>

Health Information Technology Standards Panel

- > http://www.ansi.org/standards_activities/standards_boards_panels/hisp/hitsp.aspx?menuid=3

State RHIO Consensus Project

- > <http://www.staterhio.org/>

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National Health IT
Resources for Rural Health Professionals

AHRQ National Resource Center for Health IT

- > <http://healthit.ahrq.gov>

Health Information Privacy and Security Collaboration (HISPC)

- > <https://privacysecurity.rti.org/>

Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology

- > <http://www.cchit.org/>

Presidential Candidate Health Reform Plan Comparison

- > http://www.huffingtonpost.com/susan-blumenthal/us-presidential-candida_b_55460.html

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THANK YOU!

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