



NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

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The National Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Coalition shares the principle that to achieve open, connected care for our rural communities, we all have the responsibility to take action. The National Rural HIT Coalition is a network of rural and HIT leaders from organizations at every level, working together to advance the implementation of HIT across rural America. The Coalition is supported by the Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC), a program of the National Rural Health Resource Center in cooperation with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.

To further the goal of open, connected care, we commit to the following principles to advance interoperability among health information systems enabling free movement of data, which are foundational to the success of delivery system reform.

Consumer access: To help consumers easily and securely access their electronic health information, direct it to any desired location, learn how their information can be shared and used and be assured that this information will be effectively and safely used to benefit their health and that of their community.

No Blocking/Transparency: To help providers share individuals' health information for care with other providers and their patients whenever permitted by law, and not block electronic health information (defined as knowingly and unreasonably interfering with information sharing).

Standards: Implement federally recognized, national interoperability standards, policies, guidance, and practices for electronic health information and adopt best practices including those related to privacy and security.

To implement these commitments we are or will support and implement, where appropriate, technologies such as Direct, FHIR, C-CDA, API, and other universally supported protocols. Further, we will advocate and support incremental approaches that further exchange between referral partners in as rapid a manner as possible. We feel that increasing the amount of shared electronic health information offers such a great opportunity to improve patient care that we cannot wait for "perfect" solutions any longer.

Sincerely,

Terry Hill, Co-Chair
National Rural HIT Coalition
National Rural Health Resource Center
Rural Health Innovations

Neal Neuberger, Co-Chair
National Rural HIT Coalition
Health Tech Strategies
American Telehealth Association (co-chairs)