



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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American Osteopathic Association Commitment Statement

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the more than 123,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students we represent, is pleased to commit to HHS' principles of consumer access, data transparency, and standards that support interoperability. These principles will help to achieve connected care across our nation and drive healthcare quality and access:

1. **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.
2. **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).
3. **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.

These commitments reflect AOA's principles on health information infrastructure which support healthcare providers and strengthen engagement between providers and patients in the patient-centered, coordinated care model that is the hallmark of the osteopathic approach to care:

- Policies and technologies must facilitate person-centered health care, not technology-centered healthcare. This approach ensures that the patient receives the appropriate care and that the patient-physician relationship remains robust and unencumbered.
- Open interoperability platforms for health care delivery are necessary in order for clinical information systems to capture and share quality, outcome, and cost data for the purposes of advancing the value-based model of care. This functionality underpins coordinated care and provides a foundation for advanced care models and high-quality care.
- Public and private sector stakeholders should be incentivized to develop clinically driven, standardized products that are interoperable by design, do not require costly and time-consuming customization, and for which any upgrades or future needs can be integrated seamlessly without burdensome costs or system modifications. This principle guarantees that providers of varying levels of resources will have the ability to meaningfully engage in health information technology in a sustainable manner.

AOA is fully committed to continue our efforts to shape federal and state policy to incorporate these commitments and support those that reflect AOA's philosophy of providing patient-centered health care. We will continue to advance the establishment of a trusted technological environment where data is collected, shared, and used in the effort to improve health care and public health.