



February 29, 2016

Karen DeSalvo, M.D.
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW, Suite 729-D
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. DeSalvo:

On behalf of our 39 hospitals in Arizona, California and Nevada, Dignity Health is proud to support the Office of the National Coordinator's (ONC) vision of achieving an open, connected care system. As the nation's fifth-largest non-profit hospital system, Dignity Health is dedicated to our mission of providing compassionate, high-quality care and sees health information technology as the cornerstone of a transformed health care delivery system that empowers providers to deliver patient-centered care, while improving the health of populations.

Dignity Health is working to balance our capital commitments, implementing cutting-edge technology, while providing the highest quality, most cost-effective care to the communities we serve. Through Cerner's MobileMD health information exchange platform, Dignity Health connects over 9,300 affiliated and community physicians and 37 hospitals across 3 states. Already, 26 of our hospitals have achieved Meaningful Use Stage 2, giving hundreds of thousands of patients access to their health information.

Dignity Health will continue to advance interoperability, enabling free movement of data by:

1. Helping 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. Helping 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. Participating in the development and implementation of federally recognized, national interoperability standards, policies, guidance, and practices for electronic health information, and adopt best practices including those related to privacy and security.

I look forward to working with policy makers and colleagues to achieve a connected care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lloyd H. Dean".

Lloyd H. Dean
President/CEO

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