



February 19, 2016

Dr. Karen DeSalvo, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc.
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear National Coordinator DeSalvo:

The National Partnership for Women & Families shares the principle that to achieve open, connected health care for our communities, we all have the responsibility to take action. To further these goals, we commit to the following principles to advance interoperability among health information systems enabling appropriate and secure movement of data, which are foundational to the success of delivery system reform.

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.

To implement these commitments, we will continue to advocate for these principles in health information technology policies and programs, and to support consumers in their online access to and use of their electronic health information.

Very truly yours,

[signed]

Debra L. Ness
President