

February 21, 2018

Donald W. Rucker, MD  
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology  
Office of the National Coordinator  
Department of Health & Human Services  
300 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Rucker:

As part of the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee's (HITAC) responsibilities pursuant to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, the HITAC recommends to the National Coordinator the following policy framework for the consideration of activities of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

ONC activities should:

- Advance the target areas identified in Section 4003 provisions related to:
  - Achieving a health information technology infrastructure that allows for the electronic access, exchange, and use of health information;
  - The promotion and protection of privacy and security of health information in health information technology;
  - The facilitation of secure access by an individual to such individual's protected health information;
- Align with the [\*Federal Health IT Strategic Plan: 2015-2020\*](#) goals, including the enhancement of the nation's health information technology infrastructure.
- Implement provisions in Title IV of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act within its authority, including provisions related to patient access, trusted exchange, interoperability, conditions and maintenance of certification, and information blocking.
- Advance policies, standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria related to the interoperability of health IT.

We look forward to the opportunity to provide recommendations to the National Coordinator on matters related to the above activities, such as the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), the United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) for purposes of TEFCA and the upcoming ONC proposed rulemaking to implement the Cures Act.

In addition, the HITAC, in consultation with ONC, will submit a report to Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary on progress made during the preceding fiscal year related to the recommendations we provide to the National Coordinator.

We look forward to our upcoming work with ONC on our shared goal of advancing the state of health information technology.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Carolyn Petersen  
Co-chair, Health Information Technology  
Advisory Committee

/s/

Robert Wah  
Co-chair, Health Information  
Technology Advisory Committee