



“Connect for Care” Pledge

The Premier healthcare alliance, uniting approximately 3,600 leading hospitals and health systems and 120,000 other providers to transform healthcare, shares the principle that to achieve an open, connected 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 free 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.

According to recent [survey results](#) published by the Premier healthcare alliance and eHealth Initiative (eHI), integrating data from out-of-network providers was the top HIT challenge for 80 percent of the ACOs. Without this connectivity across the continuum, the data collected are fragmented and do not paint the total picture necessary for healthcare providers to deliver informed, coordinated care. Enacting policies that comply with these principles will allow providers to access data from any system and unlock the true potential of coordinated, high-quality, cost-effective healthcare. With interoperability standards that are enforced, providers will be in a much better position to manage population health across the care continuum and support advanced payment initiatives such as shared savings and bundled payment.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Susan D. DeVore
President and CEO