



Trevor Fetter

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February 16, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

Tenet has long recognized the critical role health information technology plays in both improving patient care and reducing costs across the health system. As a result, we have invested more than \$1 billion to implement a certified EMR across Tenet.

To date, our investments have resulted in avoiding more than 1 million drug errors, 2.6 million duplicative lab tests and 258,000 duplicative radiology tests. However, despite the real value our investments in health information technology continue to provide our patients, we believe achieving increased interoperability is crucial to both continuing to improve care and advancing important delivery system reforms.

We are, therefore, pleased to commit to working with you to advance the ideals of the attached private sector stakeholder "Connect for Care" pledge.

Sincerely,

[signed Trevor Fetter]

<p style="text-align: center;">Private Sector Stakeholder Commitments Pledge “Connect for Care”</p>

We share 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 are pledging to the following commitments to advance interoperability among health information systems enabling free movement of data, which are foundational to the success of delivery system reform.

Three interoperability commitments:

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.