



Department of Health & Human Services  
Office of the National Coordinator for  
Health Information Technology

# **American Health Information Community: Efforts in Telehealth**

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# Overview of American Health Information Community

- **Public-Private partnership**
- **7 workgroups**
  - **Electronic Health Records**
  - **Consumer Empowerment**
  - **Chronic Care**
  - **Personalized Health Care**
  - **Population Health**
  - **Confidentiality, Privacy, and Security**
  - **Quality**
- **Endorsed recommendations forwarded to Secretary**

## Chronic Care Workgroup

- **Broad Charge for the Workgroup**
  - Make recommendations to the Community to deploy widely available, secure technologies solutions for remote monitoring and assessment of patients and for communication between clinicians about patients.
- **Specific Charge for the Workgroup:**
  - Make recommendations to the Community so that within one year, widespread use of secure messaging, as appropriate, is fostered as a means of communication between clinicians and patients about care delivery.

## 2006 Recommendations

- Focus on Secure Messaging
  - Evaluate impact of various reimbursement methodologies on use of secure messaging
  - Implement a secure messaging pilot
  - Convene States to address cross-state licensing barriers
  - Report on entities using secure messaging
  - Develop certification criteria for secure messaging
- Conduct study on barriers and drivers to use of health information technology in elderly, disabled, underserved

## 2007 Recommendations

- **Emphasis on Telehealth**
  - Develop use case for secure monitoring
  - Develop guidance that defines clinical care by the services provided, not the setting in which that care is provided
  - Conduct demonstrations to assess value of telehealth in settings other than those currently covered under Medicare
  - Evaluate the value of expanding reimbursement for store and forward technology beyond Alaska and Hawaii
  - Conduct demonstration programs through Medicare Advantage and Medicare Special Needs Plans to evaluate benefits of home based, remote care monitoring

## Help Needed

- Evidence of value of store and forward
  - Cost savings
  - Quality improvement
  - Efficiency
  - Patient or provider satisfaction

**THANK YOU!**

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