

# An Overview of the HITECH Agenda

*Panel Discussion: A New Dawn for National  
Health Information Exchange*

NASCIO 2010 Mid-Year Conference  
Baltimore, MD

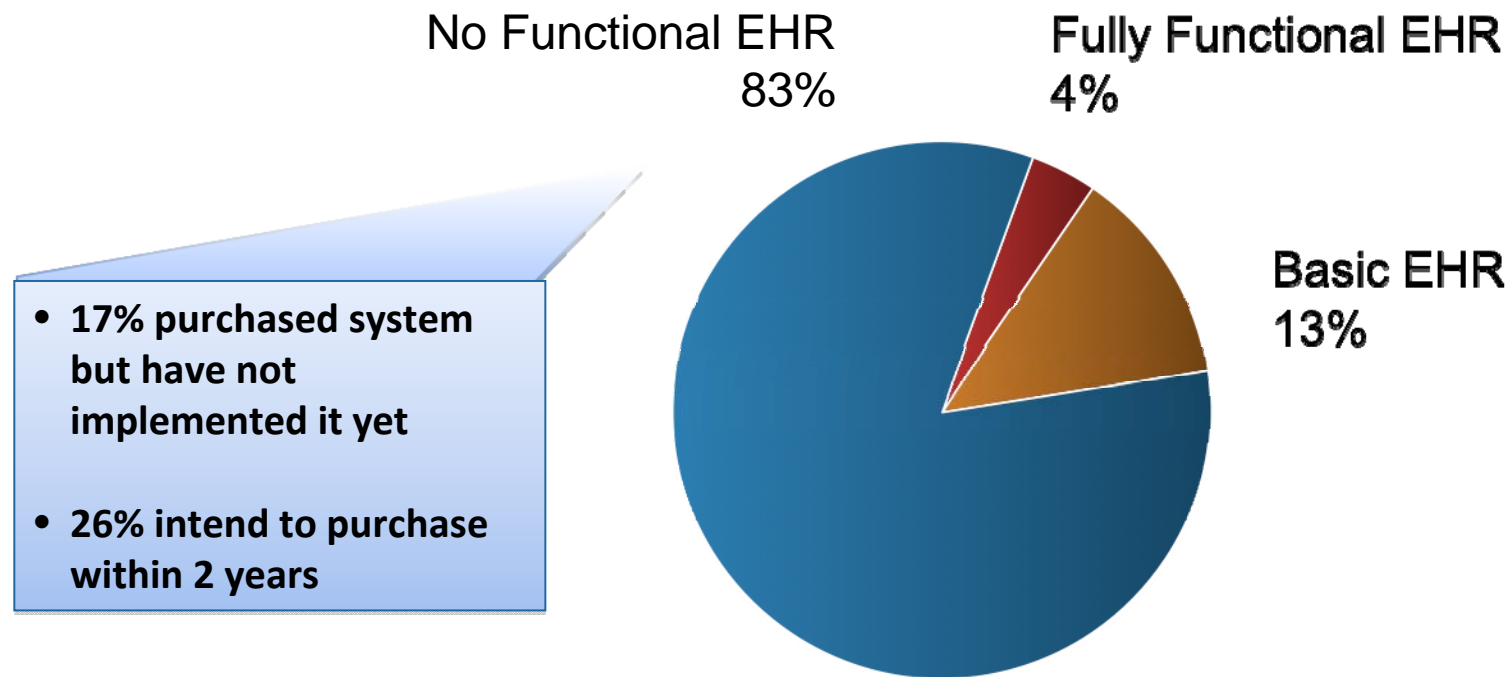
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Panel Facilitator  
April 29, 2010

# What Are We Striving For?

- With the passage of the HITECH Act, **we have the tools to begin a major transformation in American health care**
- Nationwide electronic health information exchange provides the **best opportunity for each patient to receive optimal care.**
  - Complete, accurate, and searchable health information, available at point of diagnosis and care, allowing for more informed decision-making
  - Better communication between clinicians and patients
  - More efficient and convenient delivery of care
  - Earlier diagnosis and characterization of disease, with the potential to improve outcomes and reduce costs
  - Reductions in adverse events
  - Increased efficiencies related to administrative tasks

# We Have a Long Way to Go...

## *Current Levels of Adoption for Ambulatory Physicians*



Source:

DesRoches CM et al. Electronic health records in ambulatory care—a national survey of physicians. *N Engl J Med.* 359(1):50-60, 2008 Jul 3.

# We Have a Long Way to Go...

## *Current Levels of Adoption for Hospitals*

- 1.5% percent of U.S. hospitals have a comprehensive electronic records system and an additional 7.6% have a basic system
- Computerized provider-order entry for medications has been implemented in only 17% of hospitals

Source: Jha A, DesRoches C, Campbell E, Donelan K, Rao S, Ferris T, Shields A, Rosenbaum S, Blumenthal D. "Use of Electronic Health Records in U.S. Hospitals". *New England Journal of Medicine*: 360;16. April 16, 2009.

# Health Information Technology Can Help

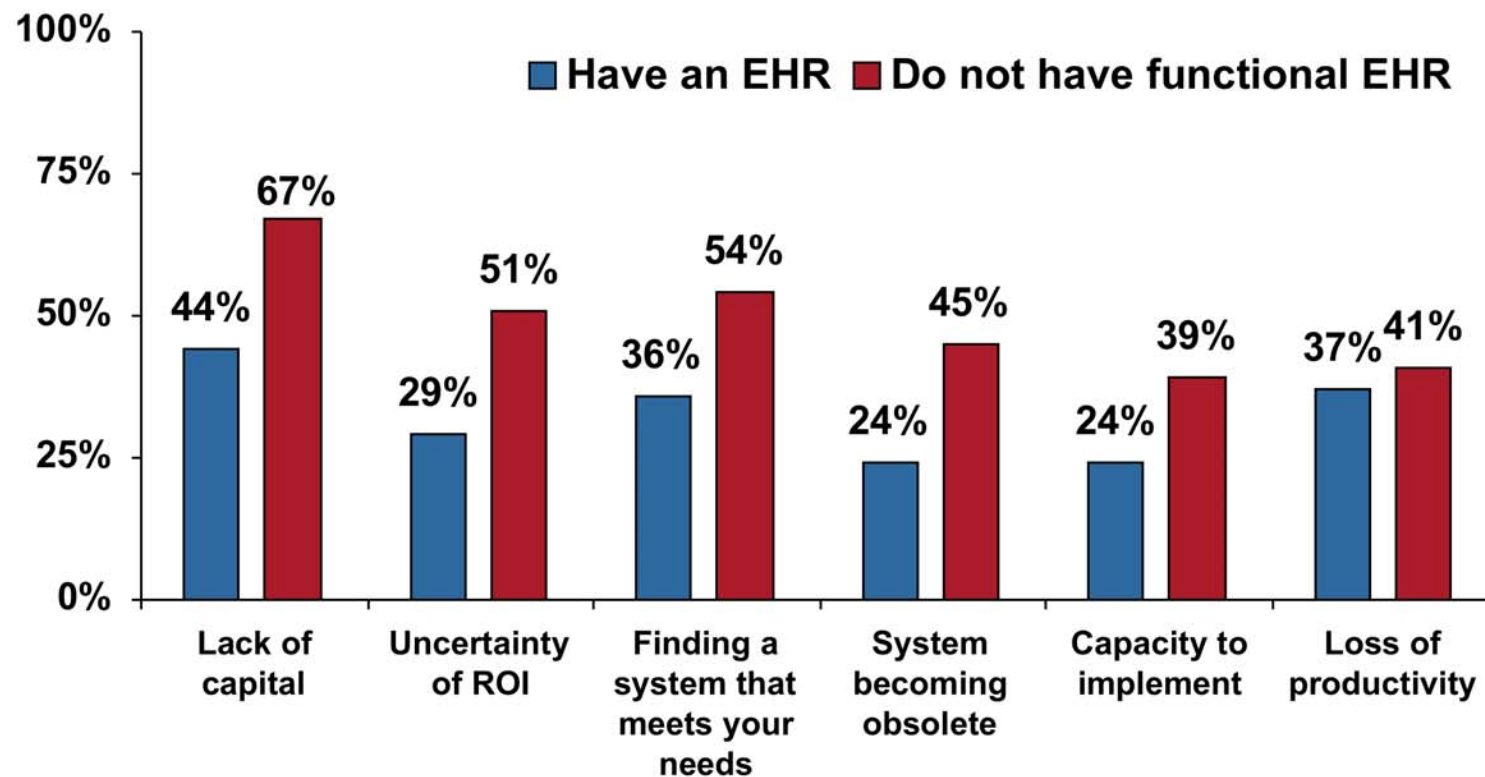
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# Barriers to Health IT Adoption and Meaningful Use

- Market Failure, Need for Financial Resources
- Difficulties with Adoption: selection, purchase, implementation and practice transformation/workflow change
- Workforce to Support Adoption
- Privacy and Security Concerns
- Absent Platform for Health Information Exchange

# Major Barriers to EHR Adoption

## Percent of Physicians Reporting a “Major Barrier”







Source:

DesRoches CM et al. Electronic health records in ambulatory care—a national survey of physicians. *N Engl J Med.* 359(1):50-60, 2008 Jul 3.

# The Federal Government's Response: HITECH ACT

- Part of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)
- Systematically addresses major barriers to adoption and meaningful use of health IT.
  - Market failure, need for financial resources
  - Technical assistance and support
  - Workforce development
  - Health information exchange
  - Privacy and security.

# The Federal Government Strategy Addresses Many of the Barriers

Obstacle	Intervention	Funds Allocated
<b>Market Failure, Need for Financial Resources</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare and Medicaid Incentive Program for “Meaningful Use.”</li> <li>• <b>\$27 B*</b></li> </ul>
<b>Need for Technical Assistance</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Extension Centers</li> <li>• Health IT Research/Resource Center</li> <li>• <b>\$643 M</b></li> <li>• <b>\$50M</b></li> </ul>
<b>Workforce Development</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce Training Programs</li> <li>• <b>\$118M</b></li> </ul>
<b>Need for Platform for Health Information Exchange</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHIN, Standards and Certification</li> <li>• State Cooperative Agreement Program</li> <li>• <b>\$64.3 M</b></li> <li>• <b>\$564M</b></li> </ul>
<b>Addressing Technology Challenges and Providing Breakthrough Examples</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Health Information Technology Advanced Research Projects</li> <li>• Beacon Communities Programs</li> <li>• <b>\$60M</b></li> <li>• <b>\$235M</b></li> </ul>
<b>Privacy and Security</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Policies</li> </ul>

# Obstacle: Market Failure and Need for Financing

## HITECH Response: Financial Provisions

- Medicare/Medicaid incentives: \$14-27 billion from beginning in 2011
  - Rewards the meaningful use of EHRs
  - Physicians: \$44,000/\$63,750 over 5-10 years.
    - Penalties starting in 2015.
  - Hospitals: \$2M bonus plus extra DRG payments.
- Other support for adoption:
  - \$2 billion to Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

# Obstacle: Need for Technical Assistance

## HITECH Response: Health IT Extension Program

- **Two Components**
  - **Regional Extension Centers.** Offer technical assistance, guidance, and information to support and accelerate health care providers' efforts to become meaningful users of EHRs
  - **Health IT Research Center.** Responsible for gathering relevant information on effective practices and help RECs collaborate with one another and with relevant stakeholders to identify and share best practices in EHR adoption, effective use, and provider support

## Obstacle: Need for Technical Assistance

### HITECH Response: Health IT Extension Program

- **60 Regional Extension Center awards**, totaling \$643 million with goal of reaching 100,000 providers in two years, \$25m in supplemental awards for CAHs
- **Primary Focus:** Primary care providers that are least likely to achieve meaningful use on their own:
  - Small practices with less than 10 providers
  - Public and Critical Access Hospitals
  - Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics

# Obstacle: Workforce

## HITECH Response: Health IT Workforce Development Program

- \$84m in awards announced on April 2, 2010 to support training and development of more than 50,000 new health IT professionals
  - **Community College Consortia.** Five regions (70 community colleges) awarded \$36m in total to establish multi-institution consortia, creating non-degree training programs that can be completed in six months or less. Additional funding of \$34m available after completion of mid-project evaluation
  - **Curriculum Development Centers.** Five awards totaling \$10m being made to develop educational materials for key health IT topics to be used by the Community College Consortia program.
  - **University-Based Training Programs:** Nine awards totaling \$32m will support university-based training programs that will produce trained professionals (most trainees will complete intensive courses of study in 12 months or less)
  - **Competency Examination Program.** One award totaling \$6 million will create an objective measure to assess basic competency for individuals trained in non-degree programs as well as other members of workforce

# Obstacle: Need for Health Information Exchange

## HITECH Response is Multi-Faceted

- ONC has several programs to support health information exchange
  - **Incentives:** HITECH requires inclusion of requirements for health information exchange within meaningful use incentives
  - **Standards and Certification:** Initial set of standards, specifications and certification criteria released in IFR and went into effect in February 2010; NPRM on certification process issued in March 2010
  - **NHIN-Related Activities:** NHIN Programs, including NHIN Exchange and NHIN Direct, offering definitions of standards and services, implementation guides, and sample implementations to support health information exchange
  - **State Health Information Exchange Planning and Implementation Grants:** Grants to states are designed to support local leadership, planning and implementation

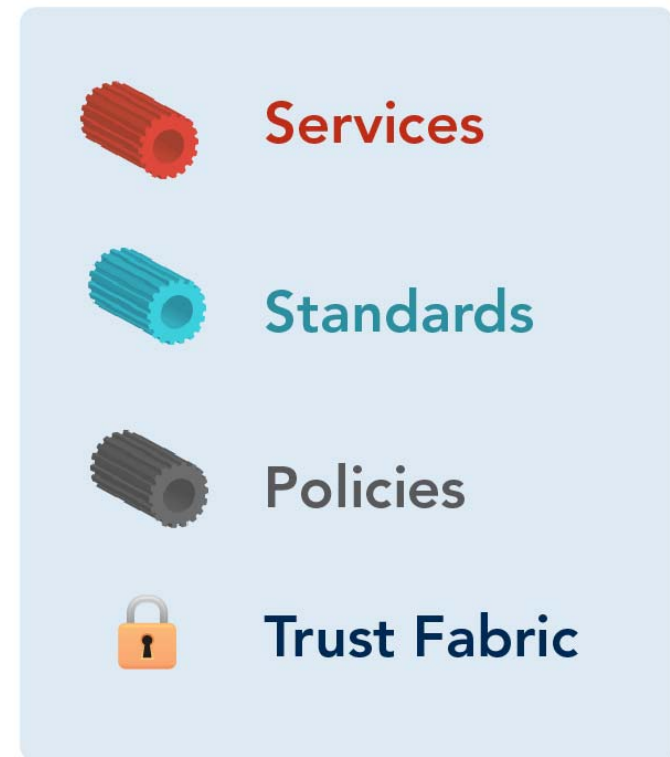
# Obstacle: Need for Health Information Exchange Certification and Standards

- **Certification Criteria**
  - Assure providers that EHR can support Meaningful Use
  - Key capabilities that can be tested objectively
  - Minimal set – supports innovation
- **Standards**
  - Incrementally build the capacity (progressive)
  - Recognize common methods for secure transport
  - Push industry to adopt specific terminologies
  - Require strong security functionality, but allow future industry advances to satisfy requirements

# Obstacle: Need for Health Information Exchange Nationwide Health Information Network

## What is the NHIN?

A set of **policies**, standards and **services** that enable the Internet to be used for secure and meaningful exchange of health information to improve health and health care.



# Obstacle: Need for Health Information Exchange

## State Health Information Exchange Program

- The State HIE Program Goal: Every provider has options for meeting HIE meaningful use requirements
- Four year program
- 56 states and territories were awarded, \$548M awarded in total
- Funding for HIE planning and implementation
- States need an ONC approved State Plan before federal funding can be used for implementation
- ONC does not dictate how health information exchange is to be offered within a state (i.e., HIO model v. other models of exchange)
- But! exchange must meet national standards

# Obstacle: Concerns About Privacy

## HITECH Response: Policies and Requirements

- Banned sale of health information
- Ongoing audit trail requirements
- Federal activity in enforcement
- Expanded patient rights to access their information
- Innovative encryption technology to prevent breaches

# Discussion With Panel

- Rick Friedman, Director, Division of State Systems, Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Jan Root, Executive Director, Utah Health Information Network