

## SUMMARY OF NATIONAL STANDARDS

EXCERPT FROM AHRQ RFP (emphasis added):

AHRQ is committed to supporting public-private partnerships that will result in interoperable, standards-based data sharing across multiple care sites and lead to measurable, generalizable and sustainable improvements in patient safety and quality of care. Where applicable, investigators are strongly encouraged to comply with Federal health information interoperability standards that have been proposed by the Federal Government's **Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI)** Initiative and the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), and adopted by the DHHS Secretary. The NCVHS is a federal advisory committee to the Secretary on health data and information policy. The CHI is a collaborative effort between the Department of Health and Human Services, the Veterans Affairs/Veterans Health Administration, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies to adopt government-wide health information standards for implementation into the Federal IT architecture. By the completion of the project period, AHRQ requires that all awardees comply with the CHI-adopted Federal Health Information interoperability standards, or give a detailed explanation why these standards were considered but rejected.

The first set of CHI standards were adopted by the DHHS Secretary on March 21, 2003 and include: **Health Level 7 (HL7)** messaging standards; **Logical Observation Identifier Name Codes (LOINC)** to standardize the electronic exchange of clinical laboratory results; **National Council on Prescription Drug Programs (NCDCP)** standards for retail pharmacy transactions ; **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 1073 (IEEE1073)** standards that allow for health care providers to plug medical devices into information and computer systems; **Digital Imaging Communications in Medicine (DICOM)** standards that enable retrieval and transfer of images and associated diagnostic information .

On May 6, 2004, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, and Veterans Affairs announced the adoption of 15 additional standards to allow for electronic exchange of clinical information across the federal government. These new standards include: **Health Level 7® (HL7®)** vocabulary standards for demographic information, units of measure, immunizations, and clinical encounters, and **HL7®'s Clinical Document Architecture** standard for text based reports; **Laboratory Logical Observation Identifier Name Codes® (LOINC®)** to standardize the electronic exchange of laboratory test orders and drug label section headers; and the College of American Pathologists **Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®)** for laboratory result contents, non-laboratory interventions and procedures, anatomy, diagnosis and problems, and nursing. HHS is making SNOMED-CT® available for use in the U.S. at no charge to users.

The **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)** transactions and code sets for electronic exchange of health related information to perform billing or administrative functions. These are the same standards now required under HIPAA for

health plans, health care clearinghouses and those health care providers who engage in certain electronic transactions. A set of federal terminologies related to medications, including the Food and Drug Administration's names and codes for ingredients, manufactured dosage forms, drug products and medication packages, the National Library of Medicine's RxNORM for describing clinical drugs, and the Veterans Administration's National Drug File Reference Terminology (NDF-RT) for specific drug classifications. The Human Gene Nomenclature (HUGN) for exchanging information regarding the role of genes in biomedical research in the federal health sector. The Environmental Protection Agency's Substance Registry System for non- medicinal chemicals of importance to health care. More information on the CHI can be found at: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/gtob/health\\_informatics.htm](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/gtob/health_informatics.htm) Information of NCVHS may be found at <http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/>.