



AHIP Board of Directors Actions to Create Consumer-Centric and Portable Personal Health Records

Approved by AHIP Board of Directors on November 9, 2006

The AHIP Board of Directors recommended our industry implement a set of recommendations designed to standardize health plan based PHRs. These recommendations, developed in partnership with the BlueCross BlueShield Association, will facilitate both interoperability (information-sharing between consumers and caregivers) and portability (when a consumer changes health plans). The Board agreed to:

Standardization of the Data in a PHR. The Board endorsed the key data elements contained in a health plan based PHR; recommending that all PHRs should, at a minimum, contain patient information, encounters, medications, lab results, providers, facilities, subscriber information, benefit information, family history, physiological information, immunizations, health risk factors, advance directives, alerts (includes allergies), and plan of care.

Approval of Technical Standards. The Board endorsed a technical Implementation Guide© which describes, in detail, the standards and operating rules to achieve portability of PHR data between health plans when a consumer changes jobs or insurers. However, as PHRs are patient centric, the Board also endorsed a recommendation that consumers approve the transfer of their PHR data.

Plan for Long Term Standards Maintenance. To ensure long term maintenance of the standards developed under this effort, the Board endorsed a future partnership with two standard's development organizations (ASC X12 and Health Level 7) for joint long-term maintenance of transfer standard.

Industry- wide Implementation of Standards. The Board supported the goal of the industry working to implement PHRs and adopt the health plan based PHR data standards and data transfer standard by the end of 2008.