NIST focus on Health Information Technology

…pursuing critical measurements, standards, and technology to improve the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of healthcare delivery systems and processes.

The demand for online medical information and simplified, standardized methods to access healthcare information and services is crucial in making healthcare safe and available to all. At the same time, the public as well as the healthcare provider must have confidence that their online communications are secure and their privacy protected, and that the digital representation and exchange of information is accurate and correct.

Standards are vital to the deployment of information technologies for interoperable healthcare systems and information exchange. This has led to a flurry of standards development and deployment activities by numerous accredited standards developing organizations, consortia, trade associations, government agencies, and individual companies.

There is a real need for formal and informal coordination of these efforts to leverage the synergy of the various efforts, to harmonize vocabularies, and to promote widespread adoption of healthcare standards that will provide the basis of interoperability. **NIST seeks to contribute to the momentum of the healthcare industry by providing its standards, measurement and testing expertise**. The projects and participation below represent NIST's focus.

NIST Projects

CCD Guideline Validator
HIT Testing Tools and Web Portal
HL7 Conformance Test Development
HL7 EHR Conformance
IEEE 11073 Conformance Tool Development
IHE XDS Profiles & Implementation
IHE Patient Care Devices
Teleophthamology Guidelines

NIST Participation

HHS ONC
American Telemedicine Assoc.
ANSI HITSP
HL7 EHR, V2 & V3
IEEE 11073 Medical Devices
IHE IT Infrastructure
IHE Patient Care Device Domain
NHIN Collaborative

The creation of a 'healthy' healthcare information infrastructure in the US depends on all parties involved; consumers, providers, researchers and insurers having systems, tools, and information that are complete, correct, secure and interoperable. The basis for achieving this rests with the availability of healthcare information standards that are complete and testable. The efforts of NIST can help move these standards and their implementation and acceptance forward.

For more information visit:

http://xw2k.nist.gov/healthcare/

http://xreg2.nist.gov/hit-testing/

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