

Timeline

Initial standards for interoperability

2005

September

Public/private American Health Information Community debuts
HHS releases final e-prescribing foundation standards

HHS awards contracts for:

- ▶▶ Health IT standards harmonization
- ▶▶ Product compliance certification process
- ▶▶ Assessments of variations in state privacy laws

October

Commission on Systemic Interoperability to publish report that will guide AHIC on early use cases for which to determine standards. Commission dissolves 30 days later.

HHS to award contracts for national health information infrastructure prototypes

2006

January

CMS to start up e-prescribing pilots to support new Medicare Part D drug benefit program

April

AHIC to decide on suite of standards for basic set of clinical transactions for breakthrough cases

Possible cases for early standards:

- ▶▶ E-prescribing
- ▶▶ Patient medication lists for emergency room doctors
- ▶▶ Adverse-event drug reporting
- ▶▶ Public health/bioterrorism reporting

What e-prescribing will look like ...

When getting a prescription electronically, people will see a physician using a computer or handheld device to generate the prescription.

You won't see the automated process of the prescription being checked for drug interactions, allergies or the benefits eligibility of the patient, which require vocabulary, formatting and transactional standards.

The pharmacist will see information

appear in the pharmacy system as a prescription to be filled, with all checks, validations and eligibility already completed, rather than having to perform those tasks when the patient brings in a paper prescription.

What is invisible to the patient, doctor and pharmacist is the transactional management of how that prescription is routed to a clearinghouse, moves on to a pharmacy and comes back with a verification, said David Brailer, National Coordinator for Health IT located in the Health and Human Services Department.

—Mary Mosquera