



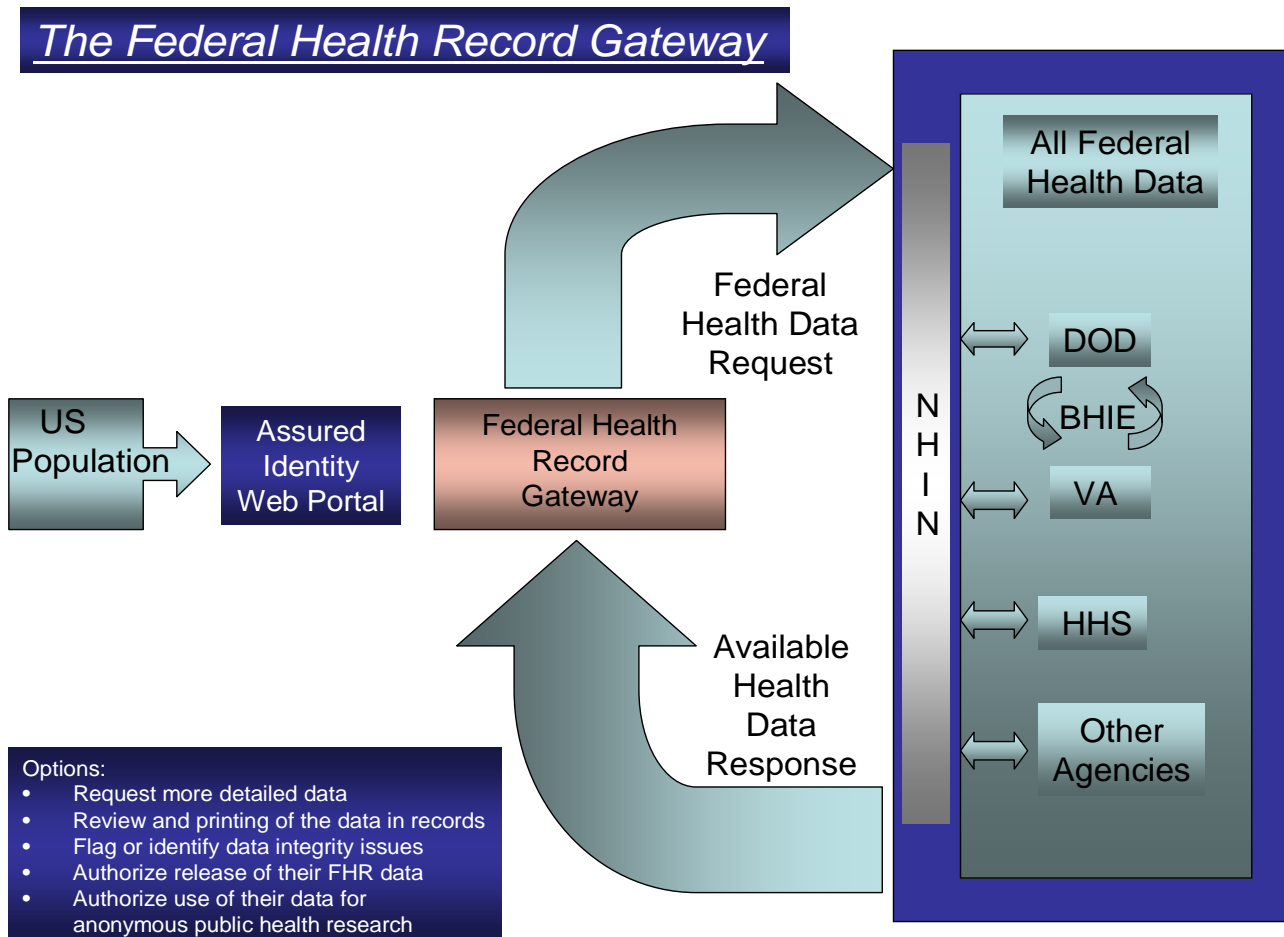
THE FEDERAL HEALTH RECORD GATEWAY

By Dennis Porterⁱ

BACKGROUND

The federal government can make federally-held health data available to every American through a single, secure, recurring instance based portal on the emerging Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN). The Federal Health Record Gateway (FHR-Gateway) supports the President's initiatives for patient-centered health by enhancing transparency of government-held clinical and health claims data.

As depicted on below, the FHR-Gateway is a virtual portal that will be stood up as a Nationwide Health Information Exchange (NHIE) Gateway. This approach leverages all the foundational work done on the NHIN effort and provides a single portal to all federally-held health data eliminating the need for redundant individual agency portals and the associated maintenance costs.



ACTION STEPS / RECOMMENDATIONS

- The President can take a major step towards achieving healthcare reform goals by directing all Federal Agencies work together to provide access to a single, comprehensive, actionable, non-persistent and secure Federal Health Record Gateway for the American people within two years.
- Define the policies associated with establishing a secure patient view of federally-held health data via the FHR-Gateway. (For example, ensuring that no patient data will persist; the data will only be viewable to the end-user patient through secure access via the portal and will not be stored locally.)
- Implement a FHR-Gateway that allows individual patient views of their personal health information. This gateway will mimic the other NHIE Gateways in the “connect initiative”, however this gateway will act as the individual’s portal to their federal health record data.

PROS

- **Supports the President’s initiatives for patient-centered healthcare:** The FHR-Gateway will allow all Americans to securely view a summary of their clinical and claims data held by federal agencies through a single web-based portal.
- **Provides a practical, single source solution for the HITECH statute requiring (covered entities) Agencies to provide electronic copies of medical records to requesting patients:** By placing this information in the hands of the population, the government will encourage millions to validate the integrity of their personal health data, reduce healthcare costs, and improve wellness and chronic disease management.
- **Provides a data source for Patient-Centered Health Research,** a \$1.1B goal of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- **Bolsters the economy by creating new jobs:** It has been estimated that 200,000 Health IT professionals will be needed to support the nation’s planned Health IT projects.
- **Achieves healthcare cost savings** by giving authorized providers a way to access crucial patient data, which can both improve the quality and reduce the cost of care.
- **Provides technical solutions to current Health IT challenges** such as assured identity, as well as policy and standards. These solutions and lessons learned can be used on a larger scale in future federal health IT initiatives, reducing their time and cost of implementation.
- **Improves links between claims data and clinical data,** to help structure payment plans based on clinical performance, as judged by the concordance of EHRs and claims data.
- **Prevents claims fraud, waste, and abuse,** especially those occurring in Medicare and Medicaid.

CONS

- Costs associated with developing, deploying (\$3-7 Million) and sustaining the FHR Gateway (\$10+ Million in helpdesk support).
- One agency or entity will be directed to govern and manage the FHR Gateway.
- Requires participating Federal agencies to share data and there will be an increased work load on source data agencies addressing newly identified data integrity issues.

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