

# Electronic Prescribing Testimony to NCVHS

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# ePrescribing Objectives

- Improve patient safety
- Reduce cognitive and systematic errors
- Support evidence-based medicine
- Enhance patient adherence
- Promote transition to a fully-integrated electronic healthcare environment

# Observed Impediments

- System costs
- Physician resistance
- Inadequate standardization
- Competing commercial incentives
- Regulatory hurdles
- Privacy concerns

# Short-term Benefits

- Reduction of clinical errors
- Improved outcomes from appropriate use of therapies
- Enhanced patient education
- Vendor adoption of technical standards
- Physician acceptance of technology integration

# Supporting Evidence

- IOM Report
- Leapfrog initiatives
- Peer-reviewed publications
- RAND system selection recommendations
- NHII 2004 development activity

# Policy Imperatives

- ePrescribing as part of a continuum of electronic healthcare technology
- Legislative initiatives to insure “safe harbor” opportunities

# Policy Imperatives: Electronic Healthcare Continuum

- ePrescribing becomes a model of standard development
- ePrescribing evolves into more advanced electronic healthcare systems
- ePrescribing matures free of competing commercial interests in decision support
- ePrescribing foretells of seamless integration of patient care and clinical research (with unimpeded data access)

# Policy Imperatives: Safe Harbor

- Safe Harbor is designed to encourage innovation and opportunity
- Safe Harbor is developed to promote industry support of the NHI agenda

# Risks

- ePrescribing system failure impedes adoption of integrated healthcare technology
- Process failure deters development of and adherence to standards
- Interests of competing commercial stakeholders become unbalanced
- Safe harbors are not safe

# Strategic Benefits

- More rapid uptake of technology
- More cooperative development of and adherence to standards
- More physician recognition of value to the care process
- More industry support for underwriting of technology

# What Pharma Wants

- A clear voice in the determination of standards and system deployment
- A fair understanding of the requirements for ePrescribing
- An equitable process for the development of decision support
- A viable option for integration of clinical care and research
- A legally safe environment for financial participation