



National  
**eHealth**  
Collaborative

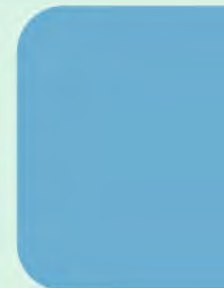
# Improving Health Quality and Care By Connecting Health Information

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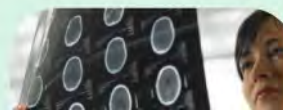
Interim Executive Director  
National eHealth Collaborative

**National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics**

Full Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC  
February 25, 2009



Connecting information. Improving health.



# The Challenge

**“To improve the quality of our health care while lowering its costs, we will make the immediate investments necessary to ensure that **within five years, all of America's medical records are computerized.**”**

*- President Barack Obama*

# National eHealth Collaborative (NeHC): A New Framework For Collaboration

*National eHealth Collaborative is an independent, trusted, and collaborative public-private organization that leads the creation and use of a secure interoperable nationwide health information system to advance the public's interest in health and the quality, safety, efficiency, and accessibility of healthcare.*

# Focus and Alignment Required to Accelerate the Current Momentum

- Bring together healthcare stakeholders to identify needs for sharing health information
- Focus relevant expertise and resources on prioritizing and addressing those needs
- Ensure that the solutions for those priorities are extensible and can be integrated across the healthcare enterprise

# Welcome New NeHC Members



# Mission-based Committees Each Have a Unique Role In Realizing the Shared Vision



- Addresses overarching obstacles
- Promotes health information policies and technical approaches



- Monitors impact of health IT adoption
- Strategic view of the requirements for health information exchange
- Opportunities to continue the work of AHIC



- Identifies breakthrough strategies to increase interoperability by prioritizing stakeholder-initiated value cases



# National Prioritization Process: The Value Case

## Prioritization Process Value Cases

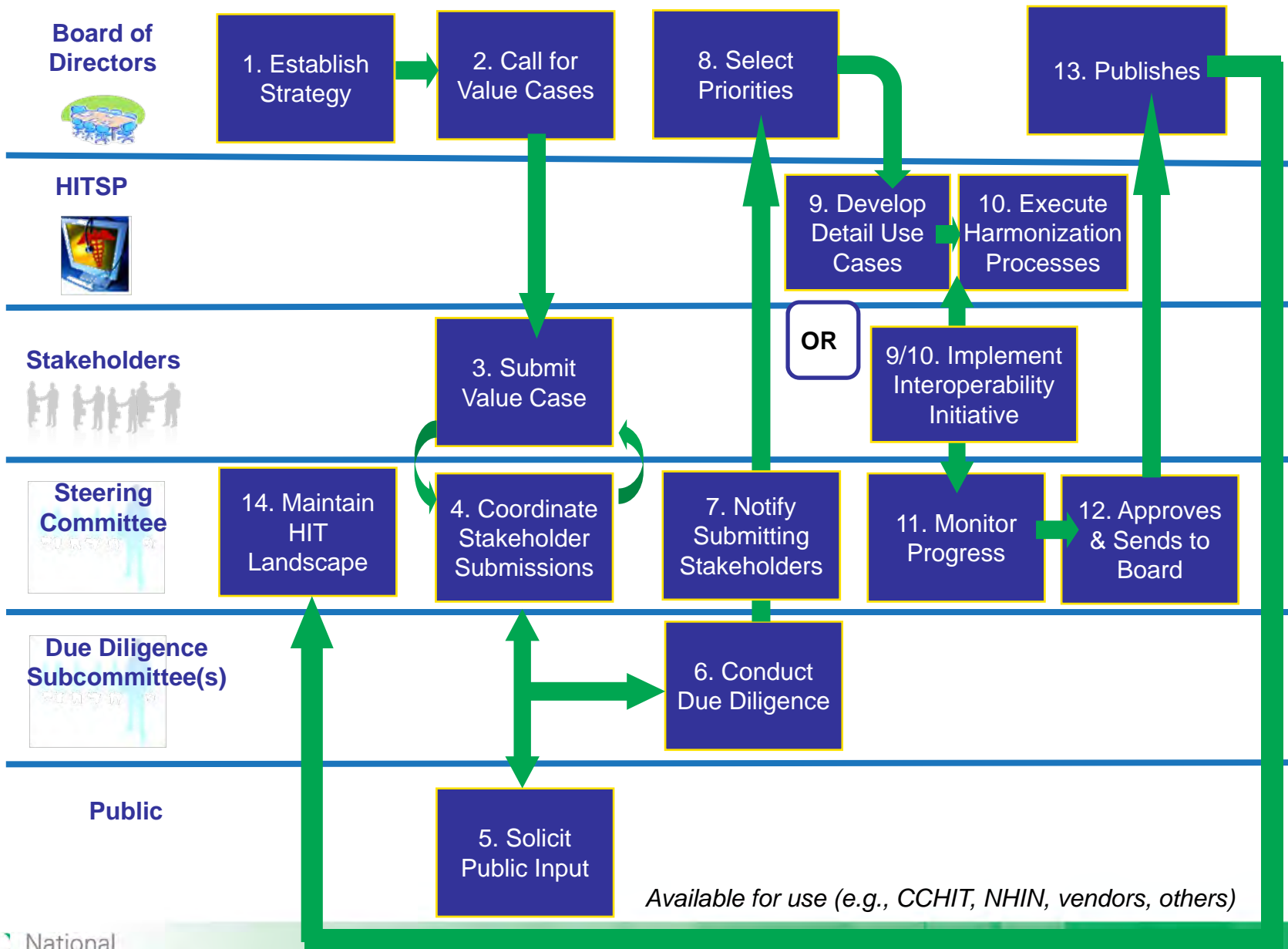
The “Value Case” concept encompasses the concepts of healthcare communities (public and private) uniting to identify breakthrough opportunities to accelerate the adoption and effective use of interoperable health information technology. They are intended to facilitate information exchange, decrease systems integration costs, increase quality and/or reduce costs of care for patients, generate meaningful value propositions to healthcare stakeholders, and drive health IT adoption.

- Provide **broad stakeholder input** into which value cases and interoperability initiatives are pursued
- Identify **breakthrough strategies** to increase interoperability by prioritizing stakeholder-initiated value cases for national action
- **Emphasize the value proposition** of each proposed set of interoperability initiatives

# Value Case Types

- **Standards harmonization**, e.g., the focus of AHIC
- **Model Processes**, e.g., a model of the “ideal” care coordination process
- **Best Practices**, e.g., incorporation of ePrescribing into provider workflow
- **Frameworks**, e.g., a SOA-based model of an HIE





# Due Diligence Overview

**Value Criteria:** What is the value proposition for the health community? What problems does the proposal solve?

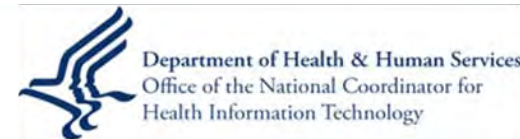
**Feasibility Criteria:** Can the submitting organization or organizations complete the proposed initiative?

**Business Criteria:** Can the health industry readily implement and absorb the successfully executed value case?

# Value Case Template Sections and Due Diligence Objectives

Template Section	Objective
<b>1. Executive Summary</b>	No specific criteria.
<b>2. Requirements Justification</b>	Validate the history and current state as articulated.
<b>3. Value and Impact</b>	Validate that adoption of the interoperability initiative can clearly increase quality and/or reduce costs of care for patients.
<b>4. Health Information Exchange Scenario</b>	Validate that the Value Case aligns with the nationwide strategic goals and as appropriate assess the extent to which it leverages/impacts existing HITSP IS.
<b>5. Technology Assessment (if relevant)</b>	Validate that the interoperability initiative or specific, identifiable harmonization of standards can be identified and implemented in the current health IT vendor community.
<b>6. Stakeholder Commitment &amp; Funding Strategy</b>	Validate the commitment to fund and execute a project that will further interoperability of health information systems within the US as an element of an overall strategic roadmap toward interoperability.
<b>7. Industry Adoption Readiness</b>	Validate that there is clear reason to believe that health IT adoption would increase if the initiative is successful

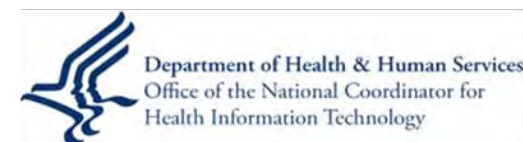
# NHIN Governance Framework: Introduction



- A governance infrastructure must be developed to support an emerging operational NHIN
  - The NHIN itself is evolving
  - Strike a balance between not too broad and not too narrow
  - Support the needs of the participants in the emerging and evolving NHIN
  - Iterative and open process employing multi-stakeholder involvement
- A collaborative governance framework is optimal; ONC has overarching responsibility to ensure appropriate governance

# NHIN Governance Framework Planning Working Group

- Formed by Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) and National eHealth Collaborative (NeHC)
- Comprised of representatives from:
  - Health Information Exchange (HIE) initiatives
  - NeHC Board of Directors
  - Consumer organization
  - ONC representatives
- Established to build on preliminary governance functions identified for NHIN
- Charged with developing a proposal for a robust, effective governance structure that meets the needs of the “production NHIN”
- Establishes a collaborative process with a public comment period to be announced that will help inform the final plan recommendations



# Current Workgroup Membership\*



[\*Federal participants are italicized]

- ❖ **Holt Anderson**, NCHICA
- ❖ **Jeff Blair**, Lovelace Clinic Foundation
- ❖ **Simon Cohn**, Kaiser Permanente
- ❖ *Mary Jo Deering*, ONC
- ❖ **Lori Evans**, New York State Department of Health
- ❖ *Linda Fischetti*, Veterans Health Administration
- ❖ **Steven Gravely**, Troutman Sanders
- ❖ **Liesa Jenkins**, CareSpark
- ❖ **Michael Lardiere**, National Association of Community Health Centers
- ❖ **Laura Miller**, National eHealth Collaborative
- ❖ **Michael Matthews**, MedVirginia
- ❖ **Debra Nixon**, Health Guide America
- ❖ *Ginger Price*, ONC
- ❖ *Vish Sankaran*, FHA
- ❖ **Daniel Tietz**, Consumer Affairs, New York State Department of Health
- ❖ *Jim Garvie*, Indian Health Service
- ❖ *Henry Chao*, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



# NHIN Governance Framework: Governance Objectives



Maximize the likelihood of:

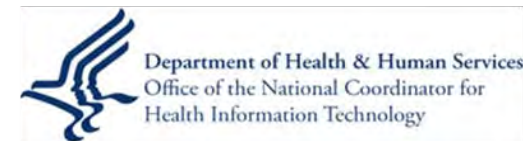
- Preserving the **privacy and security** of all health data exchanged through the NHIN
- Fostering the **effective use** of interoperable health information to significantly improve the health and well being of all and reduce health disparities
- Initiating and facilitating health IT strategies that lead to the **improvement of the overall performance** of healthcare and related systems
- Establishing and enhancing **trust among stakeholders**
- Creating a **sustainable business model** for NHIN operations and governance

# NHIN Governance Framework: Foundational Principles



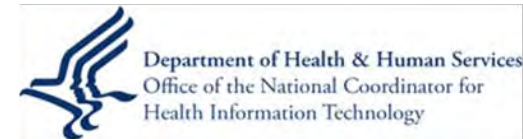
- Distributed Governance
- Representative Governance
- Transparency and Openness
- Responsiveness
- Accountability

# NHIN Governance Framework: Draft Key Functions



1. **Development of the Strategic Direction** – Hands-on strategic development to help NHIN grow to realize its potential as an interoperable NHIN
2. **Development of the Operational Infrastructure** – Operational policies and procedures, standards-based interface/data specifications, test plans and methods needed to support NHIN
3. **Development of the Legal Infrastructure** – Continuing development and management of the DURSA and other legal elements to support data exchange among NHIEs
4. **Participant Management** – Admission and enrollment of new NHIEs and oversight of existing NHIEs to ensure compliance and enforce performance standards
5. **Dispute Resolution** – Active management of a multi-tiered dispute resolution process intended to enable NHIEs to avoid litigation during disputes
6. **Implementation of NHIN Services** – Authority to engage multiple organizations for essential support services
7. **Managing Security Incidents** – Prevention and management of security incidents and data breaches

# NHIN Governance Framework: Anticipated Next Steps



- IICG members and other Federal representatives were asked to provide initial feedback on the NHIN Governance functions and activities
- Special briefings for key stakeholder groups as requested
- Continue refining the governance framework – including governing authority/authorities competencies
- Provide opportunity for NeHC Board input on draft framework prior to releasing it for public comment
- Establish a public comment period and release draft governance framework for public feedback
- Finalize framework for NHIN governance based on feedback received
- Final review (TBD)
- Disseminate widely
- Develop and communicate future phases of iterative process

# The HIT Tipping Point: Now Is the Time To Invest

“Now is the time to invest. **We're at the tipping point.** Wise investment, with accountability for use of [Electronic Health Records] and incentives to achieve coordinated quality care, is needed to transform healthcare in the US.”

*- John Halamka, MD  
Chair, HITSP*

# Realizing Our Shared Vision: Next Steps

- Build on the momentum, trust, and leadership already established; continue to strengthen relationships with ONC, HITSP, CCHIT, NHIN Collaborative
- Convene stakeholders across the healthcare community; continue to foster public-private collaboration
- Identify and set priorities related to health IT interoperability standards and initiatives
- Address standards and non-standards-based barriers to accelerate progress in the adoption and use of health IT
- Bring some cohesion to the fragmented healthcare world we live in

***Secure exchange of health information is needed to realize the benefits of a new generation of medicine that is predictive, preemptive, personalized, and participatory.***





**For more information, please visit:**  
**[www.NationaleHealth.org](http://www.NationaleHealth.org)**