

Minnesota e-Health Summit – June 29, 2006
Breakout Session C: Addressing Patient Privacy Benefits and Concerns
in an e-Health Environment
Roundtable Discussion Questions*

1. Given the complexity of health care, the amount of information needed to support making effective health care decisions, the knowledge required to make wise health care decisions, and market pressures to deliver health care services as efficiently as possible:
 - a. **What real control can patients exert over their personal health information and how it is used?**
 - b. What kinds of tools can be provided to patients and providers to facilitate effective communication and decisions regarding how the patient's personal health information is used and with who it is shared?

2. Given the complexity of health care and the amount of information needed for effective health care and its potential uses:
 - a. **How, when and where will patients be educated about the policies and requirements regarding the collection and use of their personal health information?**
 - b. What are the ramifications for providers and other professionals in the health care system for each of the options?

3. **What types of accountability structures and remedies should be implemented to protect patient privacy, and limit or prevent inappropriate data disclosure or use (intentional or unintentional)?**
 - a. How can providers help patients to set realistic security and privacy expectations?
 - b. How can these sanctions help build patient trust in health system protection, maintenance and use of their personal health information, and the potential of health information exchange to improve personal and population health?

* Key questions in boldface text will be projected on screen.

4. Given that there are a myriad of contributors and users, points of input and extraction for electronic health records:
 - a. **What mechanisms and safeguards should be in place to preserve the accuracy, integrity and quality of the patient's personal health information?**
 - b. What is needed to support the ability of the patient to audit their EHR/PHR in a timely, efficient and effective manner?
 - c. When an error is found in any element of the patient's EHR, by what mechanism, and who is responsible for the correction of the error in all permutations of the patient's record?
5. **Is it possible to reconcile the principle of "Use Limitation" with the need of public health, health services and health care researchers to use personal (and "protected") health information for effective studies to improve public health and health care?**
6. Given the principle that patients should be able to control how and when their personal health information should be used and shared, balanced against the requirement that health care providers provide the most effective possible care (effectively reinforced by the potential for patient malpractice suits), **is it ethical for providers, clinics and health care systems to refuse to treat patients if the patient does not consent to the use of an electronic health record to collect and maintain their personal health information?**