



Health Record Banking Alliance

2008 Fact Sheet

Principles

Consumer Ownership and Control of Health Records

1. Health record banks protect the individual consumer's right to health information privacy and confidentiality by acting as trusted legal custodians of consumers' health records.
2. Health record banks are repositories for trustworthy copies of health information selected or submitted by the consumer from various sources.
3. Health information in a health record bank is owned by the consumer and is not an asset of the health record bank.
4. Consumers may authorize someone else to manage their health record bank account.
5. Health record banks provide consumers and others they authorize with immediate electronic access to their health information.
6. Consumers control all disclosures of their health information by a health record bank unless otherwise required by law.
7. With consumer consent based on advance disclosure appropriate to the circumstances, health record banks enable secondary use of health information, such as for public health and research purposes.

Operation of Health Record Banks

8. Health record banks are governed in an open, accountable, and transparent manner.
9. All access and updates to information in health record banks are recorded as they occur in an appropriately detailed audit trail database, and each health record bank shall maintain those unaltered audit records at least during the time that a consumer's health record is kept at the bank and make those audit records immediately accessible to consumers.
10. Health record banks have established processes for correcting errors by updating, amending, and sequestering data, including mechanisms for notification of parties who have received such data.
11. Health record banks promptly disclose breaches of privacy, confidentiality, or security to consumers.

Operation of the Health Record Banking Alliance

12. The Health Record Banking Alliance seeks to maintain neutrality among vendors that agree to adhere to the above principles.

Definitions used in the statement of principles

Health information privacy refers to an individual's right to control the acquisition, use, or disclosure of his or her identifiable health data. Confidentiality refers to the obligations of those who receive information to respect the privacy interests of those to whom the data relate. Security refers to the physical, technological, or administrative safeguards or tools used to protect identifiable health data from unwarranted access or disclosure. (Derived from a letter from the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics to the Secretary of HHS sent 6/22/06. Available at <http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/060622lt.htm>, accessed 5/9/07)

What is a Health Record Bank?

A health record bank or trust is an independent organization that provides a secure electronic repository for storing and maintaining an individual's lifetime health and medical records from multiple sources and assuring that the individual always has complete control over who accesses their information.

About the Health Record Banking Alliance

The Health Record Banking Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)6 organization formed to assist stakeholders in the promotion of community repositories of health records to improve the safety and efficiency of patient care.

Vision

Enable improvements in health care, public health, and medical research through the availability of comprehensive and secure lifetime electronic health records controlled by consumers in community repositories.

Note: The vision is not a single central repository for the nation. Rather, all of an individual's health records would be in a single account in their choice of one of multiple competing banks. Each consumer would completely control all access to their own information. Each bank would support standard withdrawal (record viewing) and deposit (adding new information) so that health care providers could use the same access protocols to work with the records in whichever bank the consumer chose.

Mission

- Promote community repositories of electronic health information under consumer control as an effective and sustainable health information infrastructure solution
- Provide assistance to communities and vendors building health record banks
- Promote necessary legislation & regulation consistent with community health record banks

Rationale

The Health Record Banking Alliance is needed to provide a feasible and effective alternative to the widely promoted concept of the "fetch and show" model for electronic records where the each person's health information is left where it is and collected and integrated each time it is needed. While this is an attractive concept in theory, it is not financially or operationally workable in practice. It fails to provide effective searching of the data for public health and medical research, and the large number of systems that would need to provide coordinated real-time response to queries around-the-clock make it expensive, unreliable, inefficient, and slow. It also cannot adequately protect health information privacy (for more details, see "Why Your Complete Lifetime Health Record Needs to be Stored in a Single Location" at <http://williamyasnoff.com/?m=200605>).

It is important to note that the nation's leading communities in health information infrastructure (e.g. Indianapolis, IN, South Bend, IN, Bellingham, WA, Spokane, WA, Fishkill, NY, and Cincinnati, OH) all have established central repositories. If we are going to successfully create a national health information infrastructure, we must define an approach that is feasible, understandable, and (to the greatest extent possible) is proven. Health record banking is such an approach.

Current Membership:

Private firms: Cerner, EDS, Health Data Security, NHII Advisors, Patient Command, Perot Systems, Quest Diagnostics, vIDentity Systems; *Communities:* CareEntrust (Kansas City, MO), Inland Northwest Health Services (Spokane, WA), LouHIE (Louisville, KY), State of Washington; and *Individual Members*

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Dr. Yasnoff, a well-known national leader in health informatics, is Founder and Managing Partner of NHII Advisors, a consulting firm that helps communities and organizations successfully develop health information infrastructure systems and solutions. Previously, as Senior Advisor, NHII, Department of Health and Human Services, he initiated and organized the activities leading to the President's \$50 million FY05 budget request and creation of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, establishing the NHII as a widely recognized national goal. He was elected a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics in 1989, and received an honorary DrPH from the University of Louisville in 2006. His MD and PhD in computer science are from Northwestern University.

For additional information about the Health Record Banking Alliance, see <http://www.healthbanking.org>