

# eHealth Privacy & Security

**Closing Remarks  
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HEALTH  
I.T.

Divided We Fail

Focus on Health Care

TASK: Make health care more affordable,  
boost quality, eliminate waste.

Health IT – An Essential Building Block to  
Health Reform &  
An Essential Part of Economic Recovery.

We must work together to achieve greater health security for all Americans.

A logo consisting of a rounded square with the text "HEALTH I.T." inside, positioned above a stylized computer monitor icon.

98,000 people die in any given year from medical errors that occur in hospitals, such as incorrect doses or medication given to the wrong patient. Health IT can help greatly reduce such medical errors.

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• But privacy is crucial for patients to have confidence in HIT

• HIT must have privacy rules consumers can trust

• But inefficient, low-quality, out-of-reach-costly care is as harmful as privacy threats

• Paper records have always had privacy concerns

The logo consists of a blue rounded square containing the text "HEALTH" on the top line and "I.T." on the bottom line in white, uppercase letters. Below the square is a stylized blue monitor base.

HEALTH  
I.T.

# Key Building Block to Better Care

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HIT holds enormous potential to:

1. Improve quality & efficiency, save lives, money
2. Provide instant, comprehensive medical records
3. Engage consumers in managing their own health
4. Allow caregivers and providers to coordinate care
5. Help identify most effective care

# Can Enhance Aspects of Privacy

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- Easier (than paper) to track who has seen/changed records for audit trails
- Patients gain ability to review/comment on records they now rarely see
- Technically feasible to limit who has access, even to subsets of records:
  - Mental health, HIV, reproductive health, other sensitive data

## Can Resolve Other Privacy Issues (If Done Well)

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- Must address potential for breaches, data-mining, misuse of sensitive personal data, which could undermine consumer confidence vital to HIT success
- If protections are seen as inadequate, to avoid embarrassment or discrimination patients may withhold information and forego treatment
- Critical to do privacy and security well:
  - to gain consumer confidence
  - preserve medical ethics



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## Need to Balance Privacy Concerns and “Common Good”

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- Consumers do want benefits, improved quality and convenience of electronic records.
- Aggregated, de-identified data have enormous power to identify public health threats and most effective care (“best practices”)

Consumers are welcome & needed at the Health IT  
planning table!

**HEALTH I.T.**

**Help make this a  
reality in CT**

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