

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR**

**Executive Order 2008-06**

**An Order Directing the New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative to Develop A Health Information Technology Strategic Plan**

**WHEREAS**, the ability to securely share health information electronically between medical facilities and health care providers will improve health care for New Hampshire citizens by reducing medical errors, improving patient safety and making our health care system more efficient and affordable;

**WHEREAS**, ensuring the privacy of personal medical information is paramount;

**WHEREAS**, in the future, all health care providers will use secure, electronic records to monitor patients' health information;

**WHEREAS**, in the future, all patients will have access to secure, electronic, and portable health records;

**WHEREAS**, New Hampshire's health care stakeholders have made significant investments in health information technology;

**WHEREAS**, there is the risk of numerous potentially conflicting standards for health information technology in the health care community, which will make it difficult to appropriately share patient information and jeopardize the health care improvements that can come from the greater use of electronic medical records;

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that New Hampshire citizens obtain the maximum potential values from the increased use of health information technology, state government, private and nonprofit leaders should work together to develop a New Hampshire Health Information Technology Strategic Plan that will encourage common standards and coordinate efforts for increasing the use of health information technology;

**WHEREAS**, New Hampshire's state, private and nonprofit health leaders should also coordinate with our bordering states, which are currently developing their own statewide, health information exchanges, and all states should align to effect cross-border privacy and security policies, information sharing practices, and possible regional approaches to health information exchange;

**WHEREAS**, creating a New Hampshire Health Information Technology Strategic Plan will guide legislative and regulatory actions, encourage coordinated efforts in the private health care sector, further public and private partnerships for the development of a statewide health

information infrastructure, and maximize federal financial participation to support the goal of early adoption of an e-health information infrastructure;

**WHEREAS**, the New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative was created to bring leaders from all sectors together to identify ways to control the growth in health care costs, to improve health care quality and to expand health care access for New Hampshire citizens;

**WHEREAS**, the New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative and its health information technology and health information exchange working group have developed a set of principles to increase the use of health information technology and health information exchange; and

**WHEREAS**, the work of the Citizens Health Initiative should serve as a foundation for developing the New Hampshire Health Information Technology Strategic Plan;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**, by the authority vested in me by part II, article 41, of the New Hampshire Constitution do hereby order the following:

1. The New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative shall convene a working group that will be tasked with the development of a statewide plan for health information technology and health information exchange.
2. The plan will be based upon the Vision and Principles for Health Information Technology and Health Information Exchange document ratified on September 6, 2007, by the Initiative's working group members.
3. The Initiative shall convene a working group including, but not limited to, representatives from:
  - a. Hospitals
  - b. Physicians
  - c. Home care and hospice providers
  - d. Other clinical providers
  - e. Health plans
  - f. Employers
  - g. Legislature
  - h. New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
  - i. New Hampshire Department of Insurance
  - j. Health information, security, and privacy content experts
  - k. Consumer advocate(s)
4. In developing the New Hampshire Health Information Technology Strategic Plan, the working group shall consider:
  - a. How to facilitate statewide adoption of standards and interoperability requirements for e-Health to enable the secure exchange of health

information between providers, patients and payers, and to facilitate the regional and national exchange of data.

- b. Identify areas where State laws and regulations hinder, rather than facilitate, adoption of health information technology and health information exchange and recommend strategies to remove such barriers.
- c. Identify and develop strategies for the continued protection of confidentiality and privacy of health information in an electronic environment.
- d. Identify opportunities and strategies for a public/private partnership approach to create financially viable and sustainable business models for health information technology projects in the State.
- e. Develop options for advancing the implementation of health information technology through the State's role as a major purchaser, provider and regulator of health care services.
- f. Develop performance metrics to measure the success of the implementation of health information technology throughout the State.

5. The strategic plan shall be delivered to the Governor's Office and General Court by December 1, 2008.



Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and eight.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. White", written over a horizontal line.

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Governor of New Hampshire