



# Consumer Partnership for eHealth

## Who we are

The Consumer Partnership for eHealth (CPeH) is a non-partisan coalition led by the National Partnership for Women & Families, which has been working since 2005 to ensure that efforts to drive health information technology (HIT) adoption meet the needs of patients and their families. CPeH includes members from nearly 50 consumer, patient, and labor organizations working on both the national and local levels. The combined membership of CPeH represents more than 127 million Americans.

## Our Advocacy

We feel strongly that health reform should result in a patient-centered health care system, and that HIT is a critical tool for providing patient-centered care. The expanded use of HIT and HIE has enormous potential to improve health outcomes by improving clinical care, decreasing disparities, enhancing access to care, and improving research and public health. In addition, effective use of HIT – when coupled with broader system reforms – will result in significant reductions in cost growth.

Of particular significance is HIT's potential for empowering patients and consumers to be more actively engaged in managing their health and health care. When implemented in ways that protect the privacy and security of individuals' health information, HIT can help patients and their caregivers make better use of information to meet their health goals.

## Our History

The CPeH began as a group of consumer advocates who were concerned about privacy and security implications of a piece of federal legislation that was introduced in 2005. The organizations involved in the early work of the CPeH agreed that HIT was essential to improving the quality and safety of health care, but that in order for electronic health information systems to be trusted, they must be implemented with strong privacy protections. Since then, this core group of consumer advocates has been joined by other consumer and patient organizations that are equally enthusiastic about pursuing HIT adoption as a key strategy for reforming the health care system to be patient-centered.

Most recently, CPeH members working on the federal level had a profound impact in the crafting of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), which included a number of provisions that stimulate the adoption of HIT, protect privacy, and allocate significant public funding for these provisions. We continue to advocate on both the state and national levels to advance HIT through a combination of strong policies and technology innovations, which both protect the privacy and security of individuals' health information and support the appropriate flow of information to those who need it.

We view HIT as fundamental not only to delivery system reform, but also to payment reform, since full and effective implementation of HIT is necessary to align payment for health care with the quality of that care. CPeH continues to be the leading consumer voice on HIT issues and aims to shape policy to meet the needs of consumers and patients, both now and into the future.

## Coalition members include:

- AARP
- AFL-CIO
- American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- American Hospice Foundation
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

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- Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
  - Black Women's Health Imperative
  - California Health Collaborative
  - Center for Democracy & Technology
  - Center for Medical Consumers
  - Childbirth Connection
  - Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
  - Citizen Action – Wisconsin
  - Consumers Union
  - Consumers Union - California
  - Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care
  - Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO
  - Disability Rights Legal Center
  - Family Violence Prevention Fund
  - Health Care For All
  - Health Access California
  - Healthwise
  - The Informed Patient Institute
  - International Union, United Auto Workers
  - Legal Action Group
  - March of Dimes
  - Mental Health America
  - Mental Health America - Wisconsin
  - National Alliance for Hispanic Health
  - National Association of People with AIDS
  - National Breast Cancer Coalition
  - National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence
  - National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
  - National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM)
  - National Consumers League (NCL)
  - National Family Caregivers Association
  - National Health Law Program
  - National Partnership for Women & Families
  - North Carolina Consumer Advisory Council on Health Information
  - Piedmont Health Care Consortium
  - Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
  - The Children's Partnership
  - Title II Community AIDS National Network
  - United American Nurses
  - United Auto Workers
  - United Steelworkers International Union

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*The Consumer Partnership for e-Health is a non-partisan group of consumer, patient, and labor organizations dedicated to improving health care quality and achieving a patient-centered health care system through expanded use of information technology and knowledge sharing.*