



## CONNECTING FOR HEALTH COMMON FRAMEWORK

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Resources for Implementing Private and  
Secure Health Information Exchange

### *Creating a Public Good for the Public's Health*

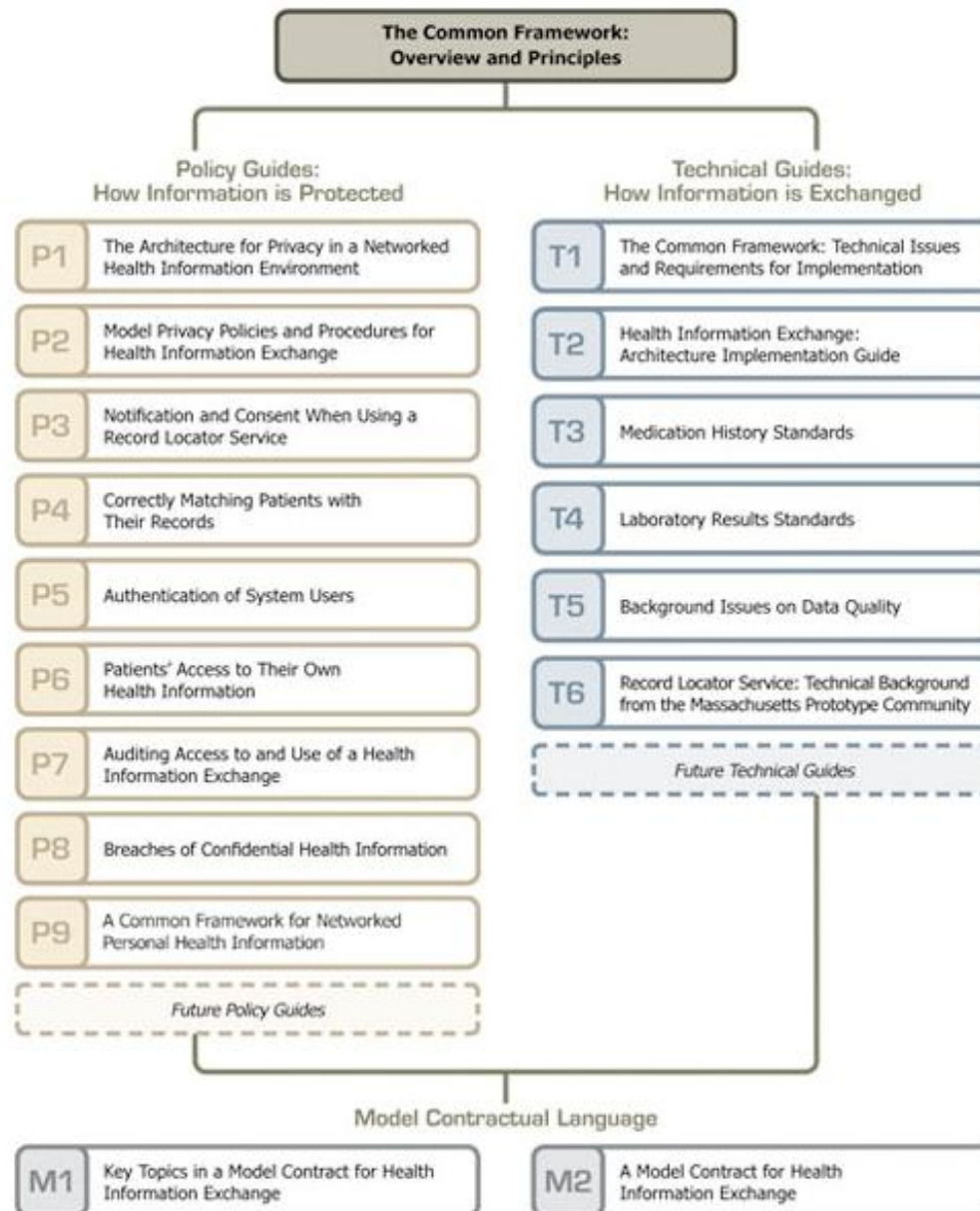
*Carol C. Diamond MD, MPH  
Managing Director, Markle Foundation  
Chair, Connecting for Health*

# Key Points for an Action Agenda

1. Be open to reset our definitions and assumptions about health data and research approaches
2. Articulate new, broadly accepted working principles based on 21<sup>st</sup> century information paradigms
3. Develop an information policy framework that broadly addresses public hopes and concerns

# Connecting for Health...*A Public Private Collaborative*

- Convened and operated by the Markle Foundation since 2002, additional support from the RWJF
- Brings together private, public, and not-for-profit groups
- Works to accelerate the development of a health information-sharing environment to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of health care
- Our approach is rooted in looking at technical AND policy issues together!
- <http://www.connectingforhealth.org>



# Connecting for Health

- Connecting Professionals: Common Framework for Health Information Exchange (released April 2006)
- Connecting Consumers: Common Framework for Networked Personal Health Information (full compendium to be released 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2008)
- Connecting All Health Decision Makers: Current work...how can the Common Framework support the nation's goals of improving the health of entire populations?
  - Bolstering research capabilities and enabling clinical practice to fully participate in and make use of scientific evidence
  - Increasing the effectiveness of our public health system
  - Empowering consumers and professionals with information about cost, quality, and outcomes

In extensive interviews with our leadership group serious concerns and frustrations with current approach to population health and data collection from each sector.

Yet a shared vision ...

# What We Heard...

- “Research should be a normative part of health care...every intervention with a patient is a chance to learn something”
- “The data must be incorporated with decision support and re-measurement not an episodic hiccup of a data dump”
- “I have been saying this for 20 years...where is the feedback loop folks?”
- “The only way to improve a process is to extract information from that process and send it back to the person”

# The Vision: What COULD it be like?

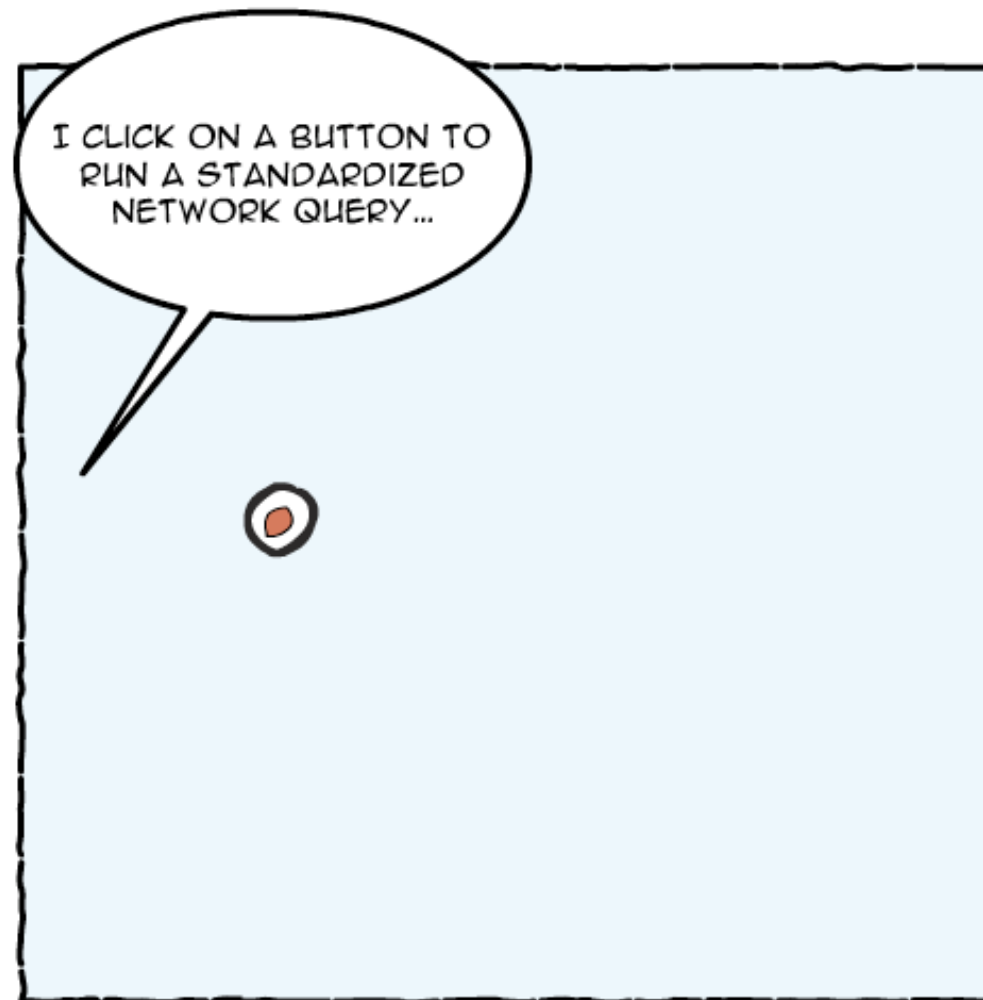
In this new vision, the decisions of providers, consumers, payers and policy-makers are grounded on reliable evidence.

Imagine if.....

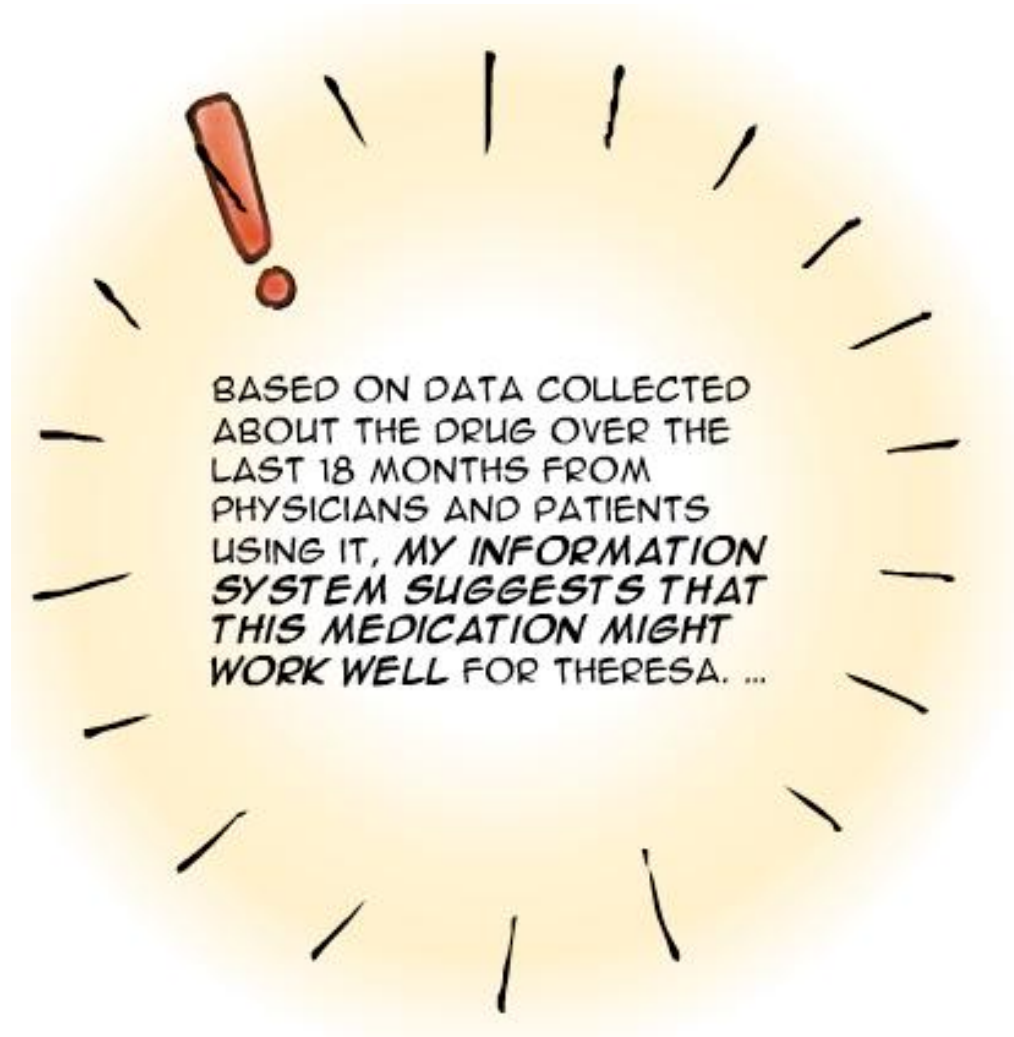


## THE PHYSICIAN



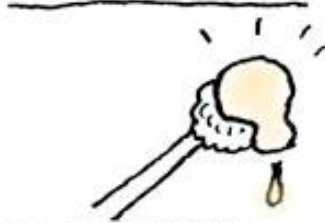




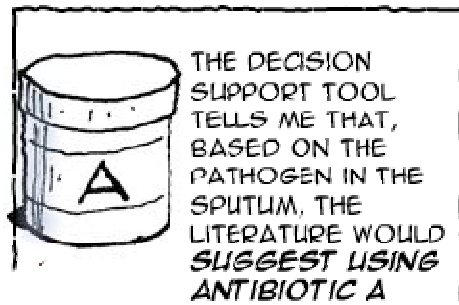


**HACK**

I ATTEND TO HER  
COUGH FIRST SINCE  
SHE HAS **SIGNS OF A  
RESPIRATORY  
INFECTION**



A QUICK **SPUTUM  
ANALYSIS** REVEALS A  
BACTERIAL PATHOGEN  
THIS TIME, WHICH I  
ASSUME TO BE AN  
OPPORTUNISTIC  
INFECTION FOLLOWING  
HER LONG BOUT WITH  
THE FLU



HOWEVER, IT **RECOMMENDS** THAT I  
CONSIDER THE FACT THAT IN THE LAST 4  
WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN 115 OTHER CASES  
OF **PNEUMONIA** CAUSED BY THIS SAME  
PATHOGEN IN MY COMMUNITY, AND THAT  
PATIENTS TREATED WITH **ANTIBIOTIC B**  
HAVE HAD **BETTER RESPONSE...**

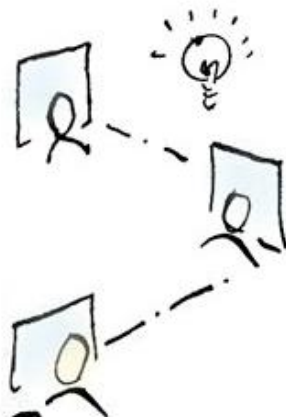






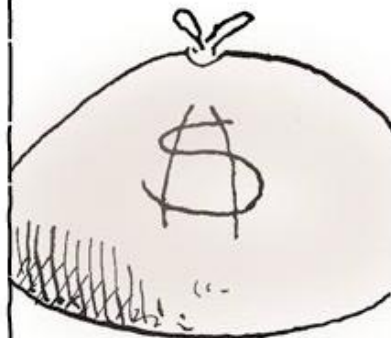
1.

MORE EFFICIENT  
AND EFFECTIVE  
MEANS TO INTERACT  
WITH PATIENTS



2.

FRESH  
OPPORTUNITIES TO  
COLLABORATE AS  
PART OF THE  
SCIENTIFIC AND  
MEDICAL  
COMMUNITY



3.

INNOVATIVE AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
FINANCIAL MODELS  
FOR OUR PRACTICE



4.

A TRANSFORMED  
OFFICE WHERE WE  
WORK AS A TEAM,  
DRAMATICALLY  
IMPROVING CARE  
AND OUR OWN LIVES

## *THE CONSUMER*

ANGELA MORENO LIVES IN DAYTON, OHIO, WITH  
HER 9-YEAR OLD SON, MARTIN




MARTIN HAS MODERATE TO SEVERE ASTHMA, WHICH  
HAS BEEN HARD TO CONTROL. IT INTERFERES WITH  
HIS SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND, OFTEN, HIS ABILITY  
TO SLEEP. HE SKIPS SPORTS





BASED ON HER WEIGHTED PREFERENCES,  
THE SYSTEM PROVIDES HER WITH AN  
ORDERED LIST OF TEN PHYSICIANS AND A  
BUTTON TO **"SCHEDULE INITIAL  
APPOINTMENT."**

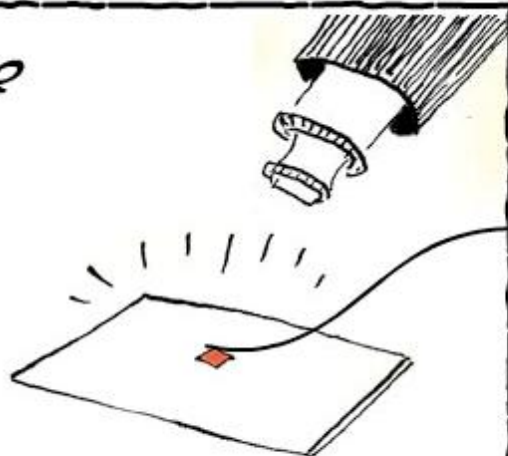




SHE **SELECTS** A DOCTOR  
WHO BEST MEETS MARTIN'S NEEDS,  
AND AFTER THEIR FIRST VISIT, IS  
INVITED TO RETURN TO THE  
WEBSITE TO RATE THE VISIT ON A  
VARIETY OF MEASUREMENTS. SHE  
CONSENTS TO ALLOWING MARTIN'S  
PEAK-FLOW READINGS TO BE  
POOLED WITH OTHER PATIENTS ON  
A DE-IDENTIFIED BASIS



## THE POLICY-MAKER



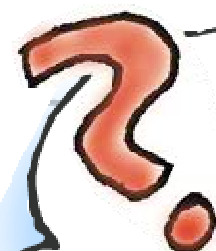
HEALTH PLANS BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WANT TO ANALYZE A **NEW, IMPLANTABLE RENAL NANO-DEVICE** THAT HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED CLINICAL TRIALS AND SHOWN GREAT BENEFIT FOR MANY PATIENTS WITH KIDNEY FAILURE, **PREVENTING** THE NEED FOR **DIALYSIS OR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT**.

**\$40K**

THE **COST** OF THE DEVICE AND THE RELATED SURGERY AND CONTINUED MONITORING AVERAGES \$40,000 PER PATIENT PER YEAR,

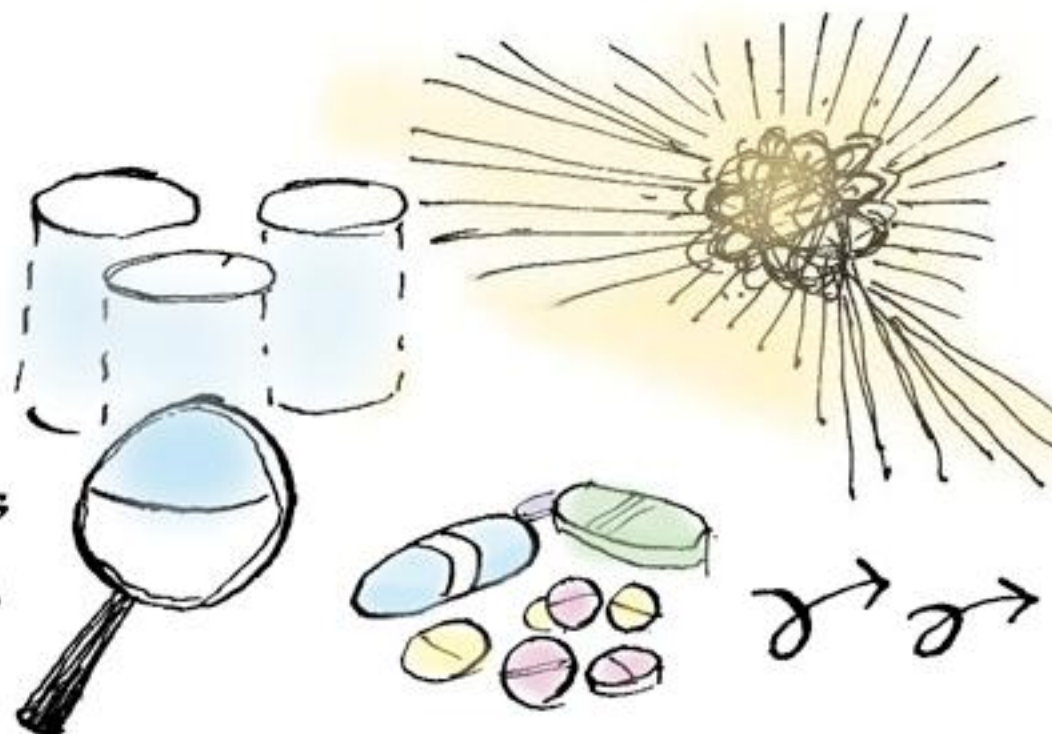


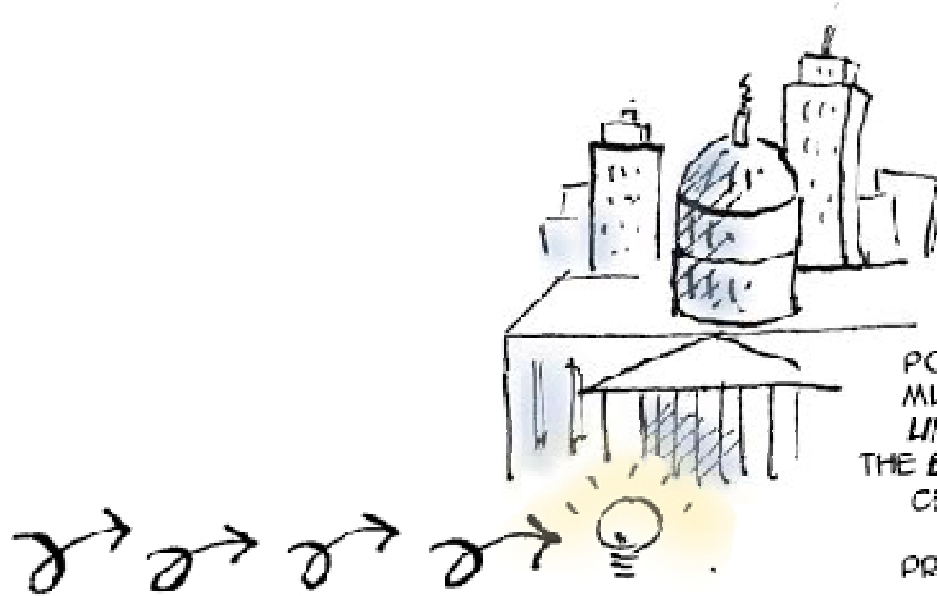
AND PATIENTS MUST **REMAIN COMPLIANT** WITH A NEW ORAL MEDICATION TO AVOID SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS



HOW SHOULD THE FDA  
**APPROVE** THIS DEVICE?  
SHOULD CMS **REIMBURSE**  
ALL IMPLANTS? HOW WILL  
PRIVATE HEALTH PLANS  
**APPROVE OR REVIEW USE?**

IT'S NOW COM-  
MONPLACE FOR  
THE NETWORK TO  
ENABLE **QUERIES**  
ACROSS  
**MULTIPLE DATA**  
**SOURCES** THAT  
WERE ONCE  
IMPENETRABLE  
**SILOS**





PAYERS AND PUBLIC  
POLICYMAKERS HAVE A  
MUCH MORE GRANULAR  
**UNDERSTANDING** OF  
THE **EFFECTIVENESS** OF  
CERTAIN TREATMENTS,  
AND CAN **TARGET**  
PROVIDER AND PATIENT  
EDUCATION  
**INTERVENTIONS** MUCH  
MORE **EFFECTIVELY**

THE **INNOVATION CYCLE** HAS QUICKENED  
- PROMISING NEW USES ARE QUICKLY  
DIFFUSED THROUGH THE REAL-TIME ONLINE  
CHANNELS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE  
QUICKLY STAMP OUT SPURIOUS AND  
UNFOUNDED OFF-LABEL USES. THE  
PHARMACEUTICAL AND DEVICE INDUSTRY,  
ALONG WITH THEIR CLINICAL PARTNERS,  
DEVELOP **FASTER, BETTER AND  
CHEAPER** NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND  
CREATIVE USES OF EXISTING  
TECHNOLOGIES.

This roundtable has outlined a vision for a learning healthcare system, in which clinical data are a staple resource

We share this vision

And recognize the critical importance of clinical data as a key resource



But it is unlikely that we can achieve this vision  
using our historical approaches for collecting and  
analyzing these data



*"In the past 50 years we have made substantial progress in understanding the biology of disease and in devising new ways to prevent or treat it. However, there has been a substantial lag in applying what we know to actual patient care."*

Claude Lenfant

Clinical Research to Clinical Practice -- Lost in Translation?

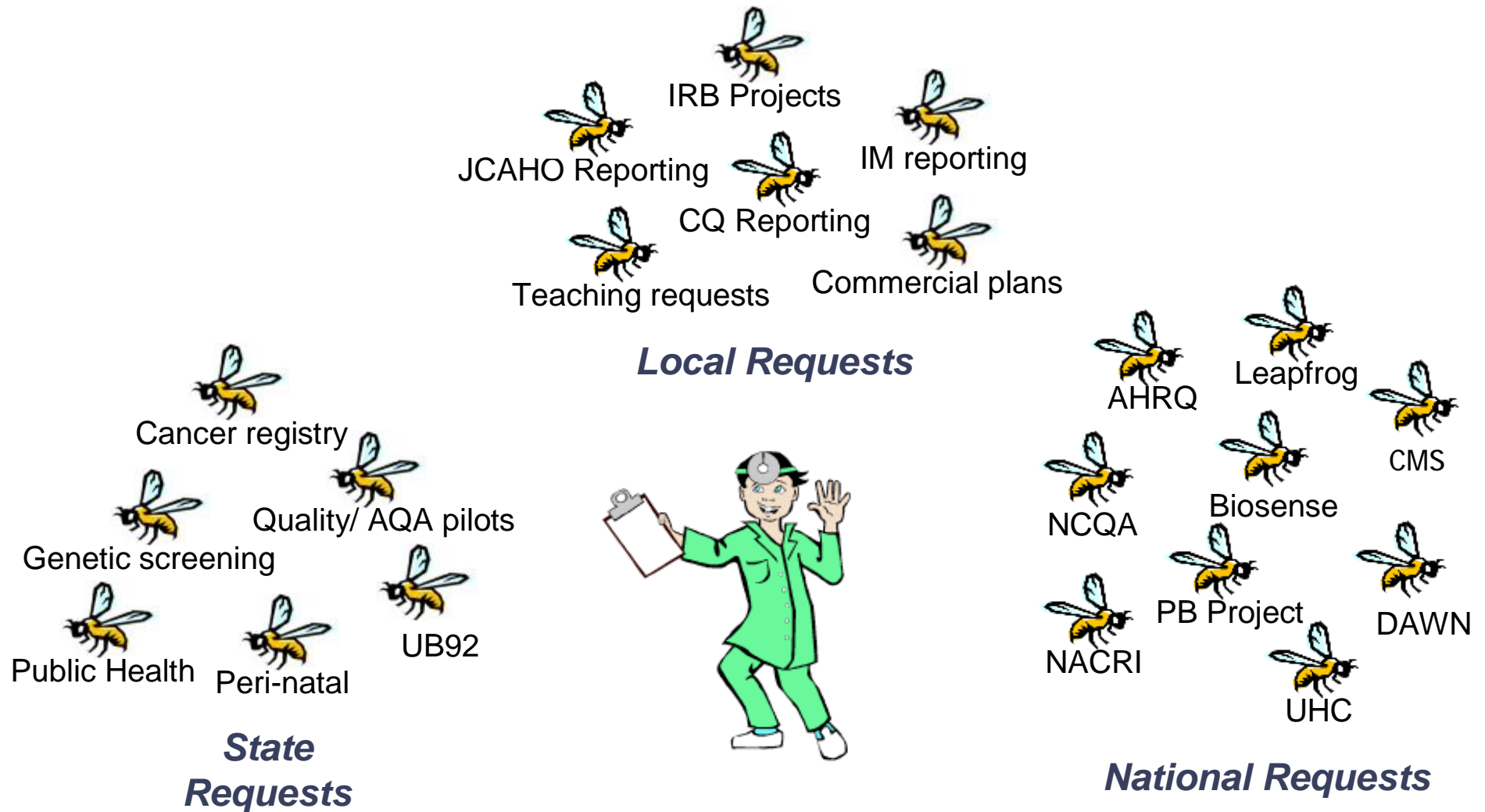
N Engl J Med 2003 349: 868-874

1. An Action Agenda should be open to reset our definitions and assumptions about health data and research approaches

# The Way We Do it Today

- Most of the effort in trying to collect, clean and then “hoard” data.
- Places a huge burden on data “providers” to submit the (same) information repeatedly to different repositories
- Creates separate repositories for each specific purpose at great cost in money and time
- Poorly adaptable and therefore “success” is elusive
- Creates privacy and security vulnerabilities
- Lacks connectivity, feedback, and broad USE for better decision-making
- Does not include the consumer (and often not the provider) as a key and active participant

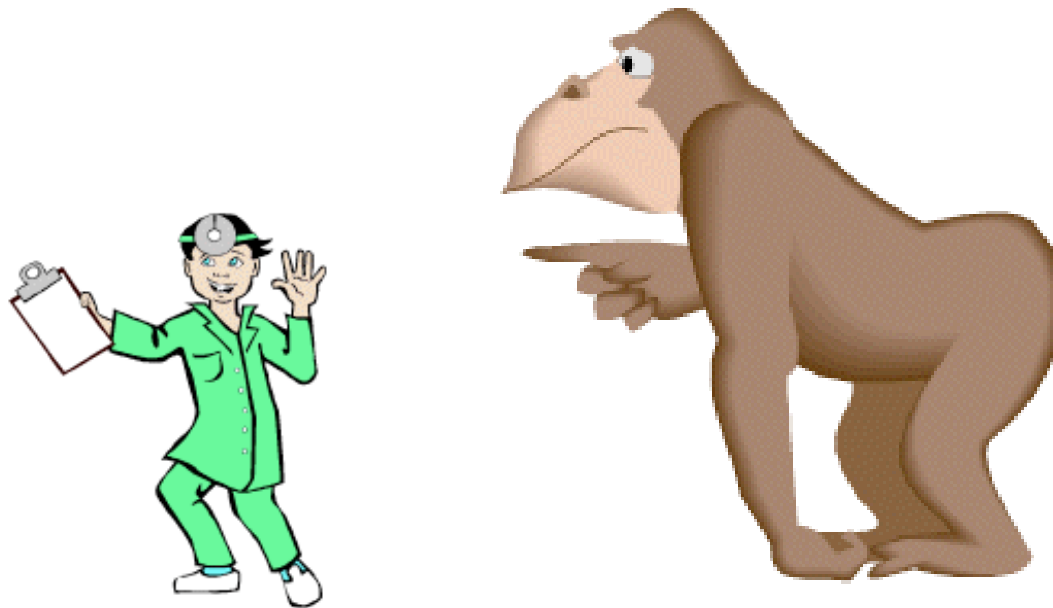
# Swarms of Data Requests to a Single Care Delivery Organization



# The Temptation

- Gaps in data, knowledge and evidence
- It is tempting to try to solve the problem by focusing on bigger centralized data collection repositories
- But this approach is not practical and has not proven to be effective to date
- Many reasons...

**We can't replace the swarms with one 800-pound gorilla!**



# The goal is better decisions by many, not more data for the few

- It is tempting to focus our efforts on amassing data for better research
- But the thornier and more important question is how to truly improve decision-making – and what role information plays in this process

# The “Mountain”



*“You send your data to the mountain but the mountain rarely gives you something useful back”*



2. An Action Agenda needs to articulate new, broadly accepted working principles based on 21<sup>st</sup> century information paradigms

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Thinking

- Whereas businesses of earlier centuries thrived on command and control paradigms
- 21<sup>st</sup> century enterprises depend on the ideas and initiative of many
- They succeed by distributing decision-making authority, incentives, and information tools to the edges

# The 21<sup>st</sup> century

## Health care environment

Characterized by:

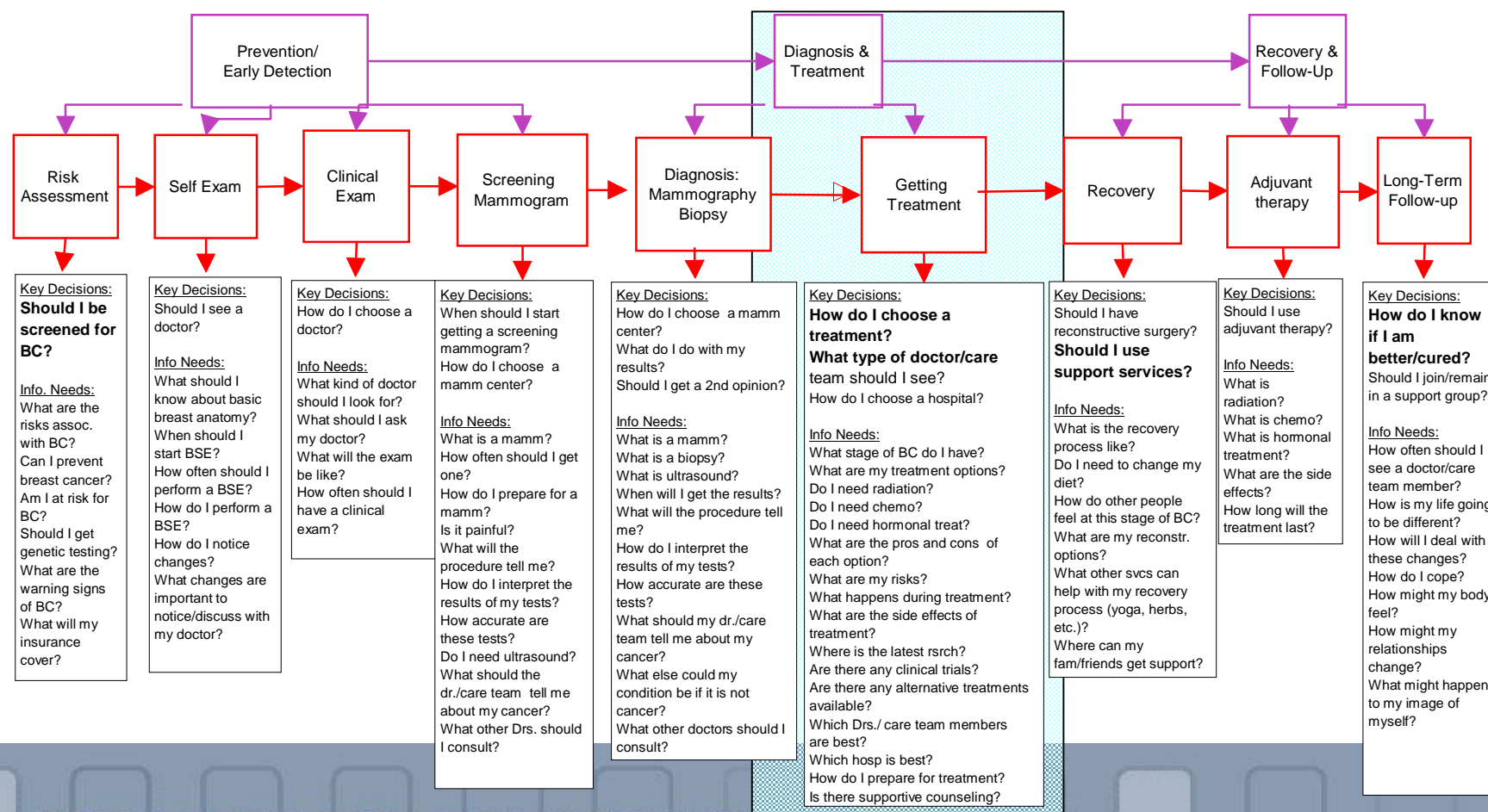
- Increasingly distributed needs for sharing and accessing information about what works best
- Increasingly sophisticated “nodes”
- Embracing consumers as key producers, users and potentially managers of clinical data and partners in the research process
- A networked and distributed approach to information sharing and evidence creation

# Caveats

- This is not a matter of centralizing an analytic function
- There is a compelling need to embed analysis, decision-support, and feedback loops throughout the health care system
- We cannot predict exactly who the future information users will be, or what questions they will bring to the data – needs will change

# Specific Information Needs

## Breast cancer decision map



# The challenge is to create alternative models that take into account...

A wide variety of distributed information users

Multiple and growing data sources

A new approach to research and evidence-creation taking advantage of 21<sup>st</sup> century information paradigms

(the evolution of the global information economy as a whole vs. traditional exceptionalism of health care)

# “We believe that the Internet can democratize patient data and accelerate research like never before”

“[PatientsLikeMe](#) was built to... accelerate the transfer of knowledge about what works and what does not. Today, PatientsLikeMe has data on the progression and history of more than 1600 ALS patients - twice the number in the largest ALS trial in history. Even before the trial results were published, 50 patients worldwide who had elected to start taking lithium, in collaboration with their doctors, have been tracking their progression and blood levels on PatientslikeMe. This is more than twice the number of patients participating in the trial itself! We have data on historical forced vital capacity, the ALS Functional Rating scale, and a full symptom battery for most of the patients who have started, as well as for all the other non-lithium users in our system.”

(from <http://blog.patientslikeme.com/>)

**Patients Like You**[Home](#) > [Patients](#)**Patient Spotlight****actualized**

Male, 59 years, Surry, ME



ALS: 2 yrs

I am living on the ocean, in the woods in Maine with best friend (wife) of 35 years, our two dogs and a cat. We have 2 sons and a daughter-in-love. My background is education and psychotherapy. My philosophy is to live each day to fullest with gratitude and a positive mental attitude. [More](#)

**Patient Spotlight****ZenArcher**

Male, 39 years, McEwensville, PA



ALS: 2 yrs

I've been married to my wife Tammy for 15 years and we have two wonderful girls. We live in a small town just outside Williamsport, PA (the home of the little league baseball world series). [More](#)

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Status	Updates ▼	Updates
MS: 26 yrs 	thjuland symptoms updated (1 day ago)	1090 updates
MS: 3 yrs 	NIM symptoms updated (less than 1 day ago)	921 updates
MS: 6 yrs 	Cyprian1 symptoms updated (3 days ago)	658 updates
ALS: 3 yrs 	john33 outcomes updated (about 1 months ago)	501 updates
ALS: 7 yrs 	Jeannie outcomes updated (1 day ago)	453 updates
PD: 3 yrs 	ukelady treatments updated (2 days ago)	491 updates
MS: 3 yrs 	pinkbutterflies outcomes updated (about 1 week ago)	414 updates
MS: 33 yrs 		



Let's Start with First Principles...

# 1. Designed for Decisions

A 21st century health information environment will focus on improving the decision-making ability of the many actors in the health sector.



## 2. Designed for Many

A 21st century health information environment should empower a rich variety of users.



### 3. Shaped by Public Policy Goals and Values

A 21st century health information environment should achieve society's goals and values –  
e.g.: improve the health, safety, and efficiency; reduce threats to public health, etc.



### 4. Boldly Led, Broadly Implemented

A 21st century health information environment should be guided both by bold leadership and strong user participation. The network's value expands dramatically with the number of needs it can meet and the number of participants it can satisfy.

## 5. Possible, Responsive and Effective

A 21st century health information environment should grow through realistic steps.

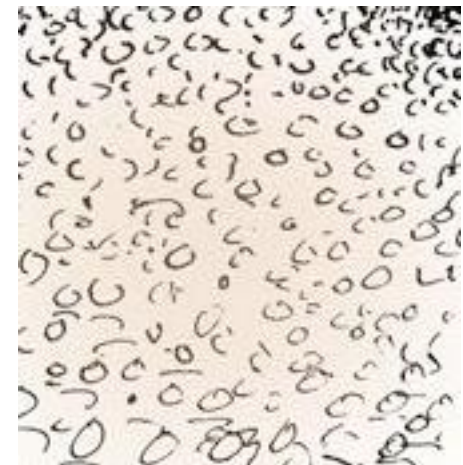
## 6. Distributed but Queriable

A 21st century health information environment should be comprised of a large network of distributed data sources.



## 7. Trusted through Safeguards and Transparency

A 21st century health information environment should earn and keep the trust of the public through policies that provide safeguards and transparency.



## 8. Layers of Protection

A 21st century health information environment should protect patient confidentiality by emphasizing the easy movement of queries and responses, rather than of raw data.

## 9. Accountability and Enforcement of Good Network Citizenship

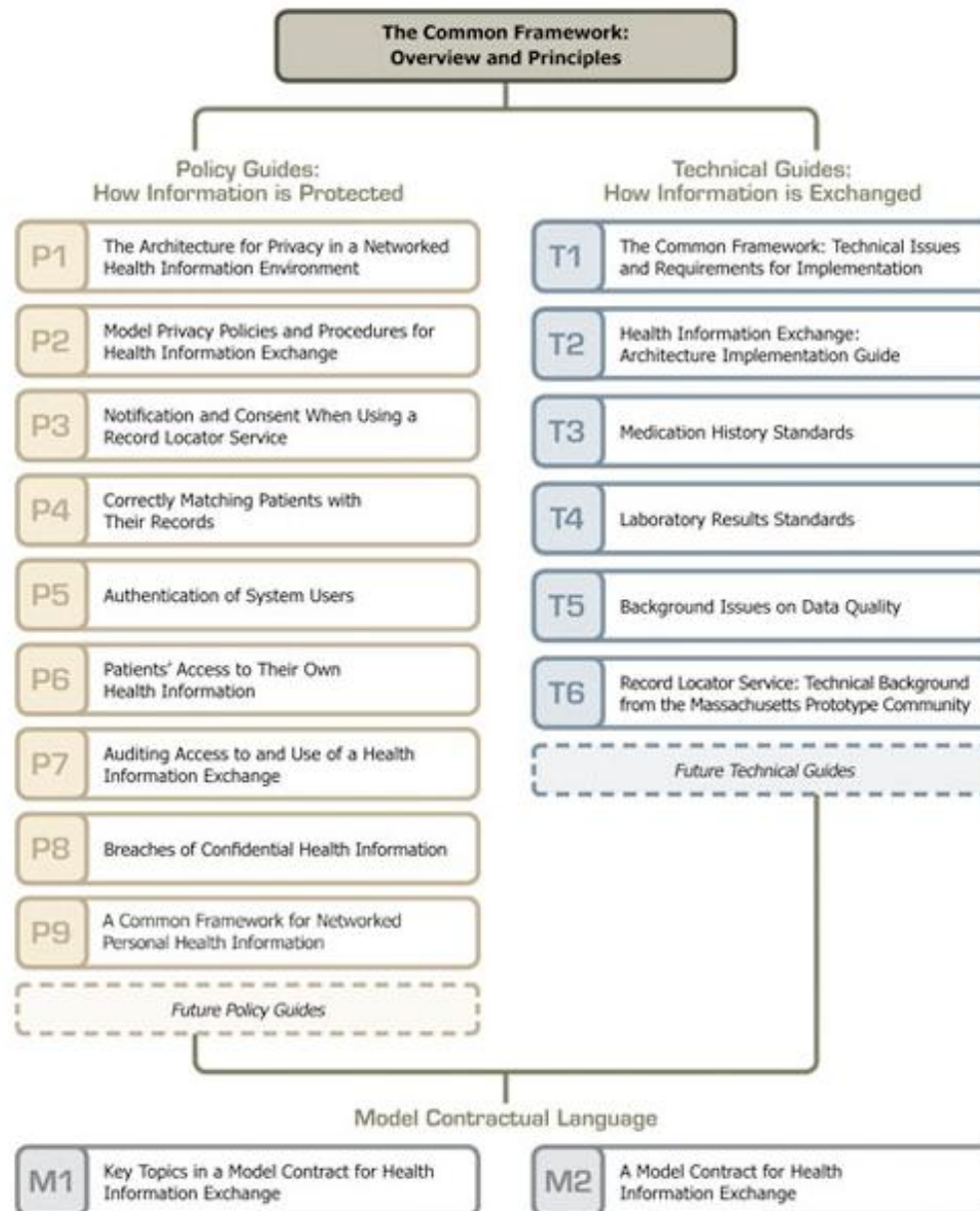
A 21st century health information environment should encourage and enforce good network citizenship by all participants.

3. An Action Agenda needs to develop an information policy framework that broadly addresses public hopes and concerns

# Americans recognize the “upside”... and the “downside”...

- Significant concern about privacy and security
  - 85% say protecting confidentiality absolutely essential
  - FACCT survey: 91% “very concerned” (barrier for 1/4)
  - Strong desire to “control” who sees health information
- Fear of misuses
  - 52% believe employer uses medical info to affect personnel or insurance benefits (CHCF Survey 2005)
  - 85% believe if genetic test results known to insurers, would refuse policies or charge more (Genetics and Public Policy Center Survey 2007)
- Three-quarters of Americans are willing to share their personal information to help public officials look for disease outbreaks and research ways to improve the quality of health care if they have safeguards to protect their identity (Markle Survey 2006).

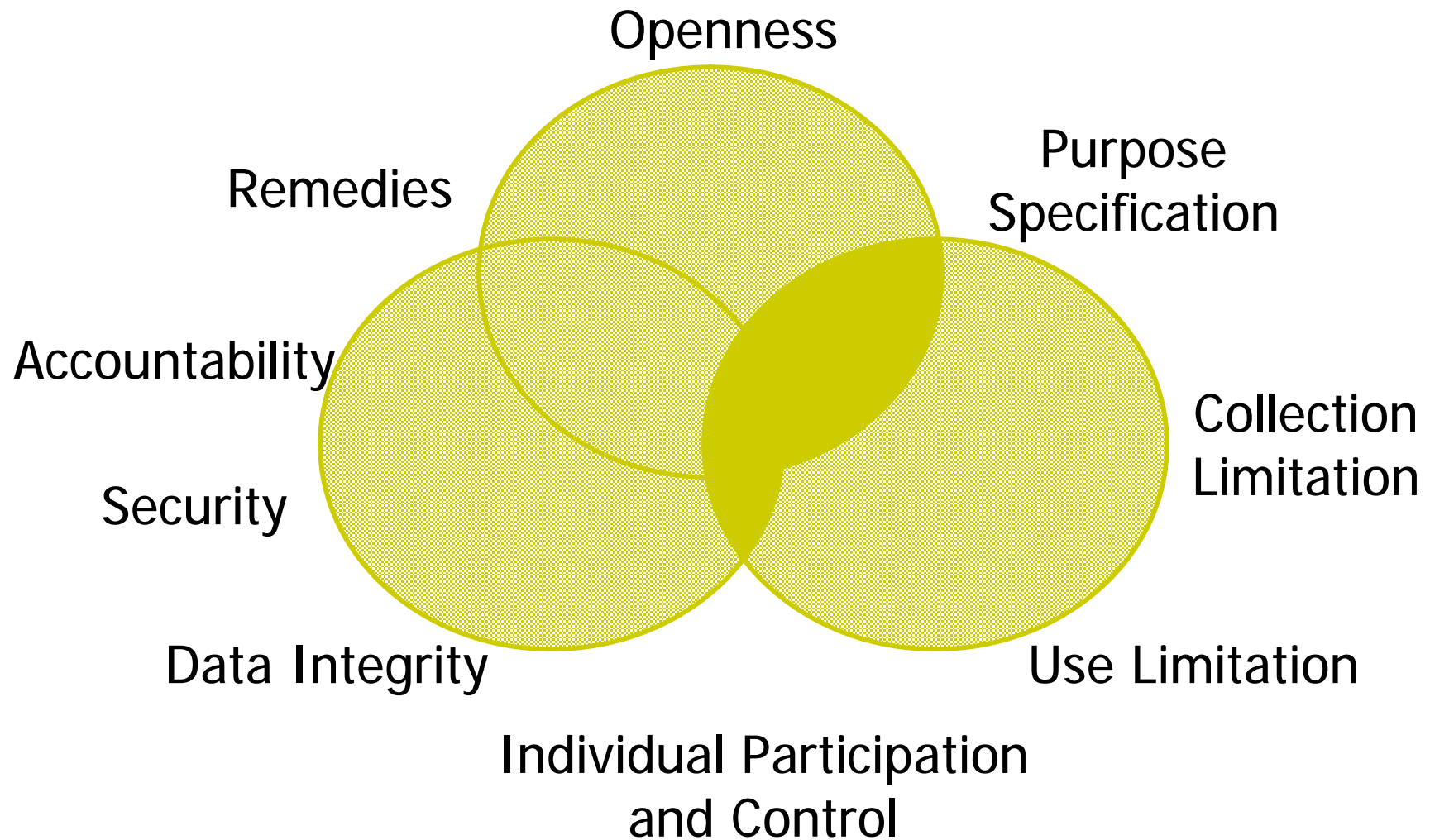




# Architecture for Privacy in a Networked Health Information Environment

1. Openness and Transparency
2. Purpose Specification and Minimization
3. Collection Limitation
4. Use Limitation
5. Individual Participation and Control
6. Data Integrity and Quality
7. Security Safeguards and Controls
8. Accountability and Oversight
9. Remedies

## These Principles are Interdependent



# Why A Policy Framework Matters

- “Post-hoc” policy is rarely easy to implement technically and can only mitigate risk, never eliminate it.
- We create a comprehensive set of criteria as opposed to piece-meal “fixes” and we lower the likelihood of gaps (collection).
- We are less likely to take on unnecessary risks (better matching between risk and benefit)
- There is a lot at stake if we lose the trust of the public

# DiSTRIBuTE for Flu Surveillance

<http://www.syndromic.org>

- Uses summarized counts of influenza-like-illness (ILI) syndrome reported by age group from existing syndromic surveillance systems.
- The data is visualized and used to provide public health practitioners with age-specific weekly trends in influenza morbidity.
- The DiSTRIBuTE approach changes the traditional surveillance paradigm from central data collection and analysis to one of distributed data collection and analysis with central monitoring of summary information.
- By limiting the data request to the information that is truly the minimum required (summarized counts), the system has retained the ability to demonstrate meaningful flu trending data quickly and cost effectively.

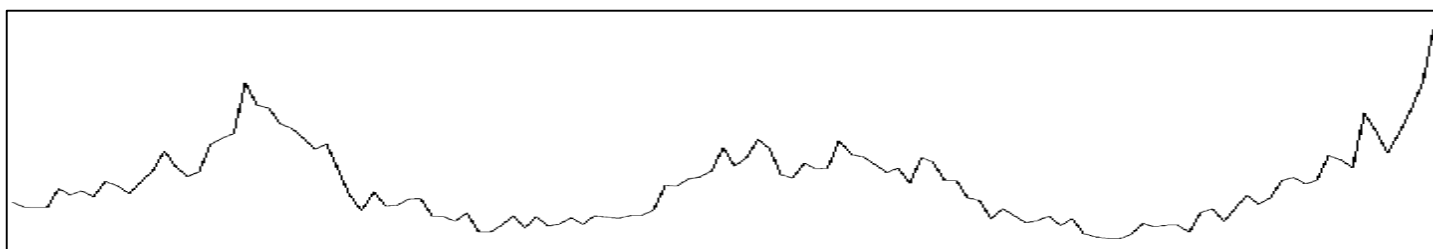
# Draft DiSTRIBuTE Visualizations - week ending 02/09/08

Jurisdiction specific graphs depict ED visits (% fever/total)

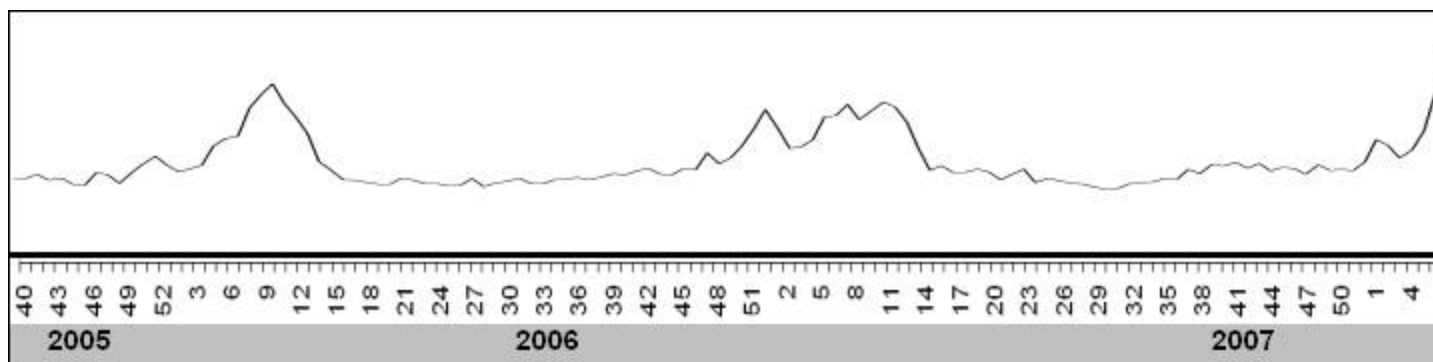


International Society  
For Disease Surveillance

## USA: North East



## USA: Midwest



Visualization accessed 2/22/08 at:

[http://www.syndromic.org/projects/DiSTRIBuTE2008\\_02\\_09.doc](http://www.syndromic.org/projects/DiSTRIBuTE2008_02_09.doc)

# What if..

- We created a climate of trust with a policy framework that enabled information liquidity
- We engaged stakeholders in constructive, forward-looking process towards a shared vision that prioritized creating value for all participants
- We embraced alternatives that involve and reward consumers
- We focused on the infrastructure requirements to push the questions to the data rather than trying to bring all the data to every question
- We set our sights on a collective effort to address a small set of high priority public good objectives using this new approach and enjoyed some rapid learning

## The Economist, April 2005

*“As the Markle Foundation puts it.....This goes to the very heart of the matter. For even though it is fine to start hoping for the day when interoperable electronic health records create vast pools of medical information that could be used to find new cures and battle epidemics in real time, their ultimate purpose is to make one simple and shockingly overdue change: to enable individuals, at last, to have access to, and possession of, information about their own health.”*



[www.connectingforhealth.org](http://www.connectingforhealth.org)