Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC)

RTI International established and managed the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration, providing guidance and support to ensure effective collaboration and cooperation, manage intersections and overlaps between projects, and facilitate maximum knowledge transfer and dissemination of results.

Established in June 2006 by RTI International through a contract with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) originally comprised 34 states and territories. By April 2008 it comprised 42 states and territories, addressing the privacy and security challenges presented by electronic health information exchange through multistate collaboration. RTI provided technical assistance and support to seven multistate collaborative workgroups. Each collaborative project was designed to develop common, replicable solutions with the potential to reduce variation in and harmonize privacy and security practices, policies, and laws. Each HISPC participant had the support of its state or territorial governor and maintained a steering committee and contact with a range of local stakeholders to ensure that developed solutions accurately reflected local preferences.

The collaborative projects focused on analyzing consent data elements in state law, studying intrastate and interstate consent policies, developing tools to help harmonize state privacy law, developing tools and strategies to educate and engage consumers, developing a toolkit to educate providers, recommending basic security policy requirements, and developing interorganizational agreements.

RTI managed the collaborative projects and the subcontracting state teams. In addition, RTI hosted a series of eight 90-minute national Web conferences, registering between 300 and 400 participants per session.

All HISPC products are available on the Office of the National Coordinator's website (http://healthit.hhs.gov/HISPC). These products include toolkits, educational materials, reports, videos, and presentations. RTI researchers synthesized and compiled this information in the Action and Implementation Manual, which also resides on this website and serves as a guidebook for all of the collaborative tools. The manual outlines the tools developed by each collaborative, the steps for using the tools, a detailed description of each step and how to execute it, and a set of implementation tips.

HISPC's success demonstrates RTI's corporate experience and our ability to

- Provide technical assistance to states and state-designated entities to identify and resolve policy and legal challenges related to private and secure health information exchange

- Provide strategic and operational planning and management oversight to large, complex multistakeholder projects

- Convene and facilitate public-private collaborations that include stakeholders from federal, state, and local governments; health care organizations; the vendor community; and leading experts

- Create multidisciplinary teams through strategic partnerships with leading experts and organizations in health information technology.

Health Information Security & Privacy
C O L L A B O R A T I O N

More Information

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