

### Goal

**The expertise and knowledge of healthcare information professionals will frame and lead healthcare legislation, regulations, policies, standards and practices.**

### Objectives

- Lead and direct the industry and government on issues and policy related to healthcare information
- Demonstrate how HIMSS is the recognized organization of expertise in healthcare information by advocating for legislation, regulations, policies, standards and practices
- Provide leadership for industry and government to embrace and incorporate the best use of information and management systems to improve the efficiency and quality of healthcare

HIMSS legislative activities are focused on the following four key outcome areas:

### Patient Safety

- Advocate and educate key decision makers on the need for passage of patient safety legislation
- Focus legislative discussion around preventing errors, rather than focusing on counting errors
- Electronic Health Record
- National Health Information Infrastructure (NHII)
  - Work to elevate the Office of the Senior Advisor for the NHII to report directly to the Secretary of Health & Human Services
  - Support adequate funding and staff for the Office of the NHII
  - Work to support fulfilling the vision of the NHII in congressional legislation and regulation, as called for in the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics Report
  - Work closely with the NHII Senior Advisor and actively participate in the 2003 NHII Consensus Conference and an NHII Web site
  - Plan and collaborate with all interested stakeholders for the 2004 NHII Conference
- Bar coding
  - Educate legislators and regulators on HIMSS *Implementation Guide for the Use of Bar Code Technology in Healthcare*, so that they know this technology is in existence and is achievable
  - Encourage organizations to endorse and support the use of bar coding technology
  - Expand understanding and scope of standards initiatives to address auto-identification (ID) instead of simply bar coding and advocate for nomenclature taxonomy, particularly for medical supplies
- CPOE
  - Encourage funding or greater reimbursement for facilities

### **Efficiency of Delivery**

- Electronic Health Record (EHR)
  - Rapidly evolve and expand the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) initiative
  - Promote public/private sector collaborative efforts to achieve generalized implementation of EHRs
- Call for Federal Healthcare IT Funding
- NHII
- Bar Coding
- CPOE

### **Privacy and Security**

- Support regulations to ensure the privacy and security of personally identifiable health information by all parties holding or using such information
- Support regulations that preclude the use of personally identifiable health information for discrimination in employment, education and insurance (especially health and life insurance)
- Oppose weakening of the HIPAA Privacy and Security Standards
- NHII

### **National Preparedness and Response**

- Encourage increased sources of funding that could help industry meet bio-defense preparedness issues
- Collaborate with industry leaders to launch a Healthcare Information Sharing and Advisory Center
- Forge a relationship with the Director, Science & Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security