



Himss

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Nationwide Patient Identification Solution Issue

transforming healthcare through IT™



Nationwide Patient Identifier Solution Issue

- The *1999 Omnibus Appropriations Act* signed into law (PL 105-277) stated:
 - “SEC. 516: None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to “promulgate” or adopt any final standard under section 1173(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d-2(b)) providing for, or providing for the assignment of, a unique health identifier for an individual (except in an individual's capacity as an employer or a health care provider), until legislation is enacted specifically approving the standard.”
- Language has been carried forward in every Approps Bill since.



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HIMSS has suggested Congress do one of the following:

- The Labor, HHS Appropriations Subcommittee could:
 - Delete the provision prohibition language from the FY12 bill.
 - Insert alternative bill language
 - Use the same draft as Legislative Report Language
- A Congressional committee chair or key subcommittee chair could request by letter that GAO to undertake a study (Rationale is GAO does not require funding and, as an agency of the Congress, is not bound by the Labor HHS Appropriations language.)



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- HIMSS has suggested a study include the following:
 - Prevalence and costs of patient-data mismatches nation-wide including the costs of correcting these errors.
 - Patient safety risks of NOT having national patient identity solution.
 - Benefits and implications of applying patient identity solutions in healthcare.
 - The impact on privacy, security, and safety of potential national standards,
 - Current and near-term available technologies and best practices for assuring patient-data matching
 - Costs/benefits and practicality of adopting nation-wide patient identity solution standards.



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***The Coalition for an Informed Patient Identity Integrity Solution
is composed of –***

- ***American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA);***
- ***American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA);***
- ***Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems (AMDIS);***
- ***College of Health Information Management Executives (CHIME);***
- ***Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS);***
- ***HIT Now Coalition;***
- ***National Association of Healthcare Access Management (NAHAM);***
- ***Safe-BioPharma;***
- ***e-Citizen Foundation.***



HIMSS Policy Summit

Issue #3 - Congress should support the development of a nationwide patient identity solution by lifting the current statutory prohibition, to allow HHS to address this issue along with other health IT policy enhancements.

	Supports	Opposes	No position
• Response Percentage	58%	1%	41%
• Total Responses -120	69	1*	50**

*Those in opposition – Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)

** Ask #3 is a considerably more complicated issue with which the HIMSS volunteers were not totally familiar and so it's logical that the results show a higher rate of “no position” responses than for other issues.