

# Shaping Health IT Policy... Improving Information Exchange...



The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) is the leading authority on the use of health IT to improve healthcare information exchange in order to enhance the quality of care, improve efficiency and to reduce costs of the American healthcare system. Formed in 1991 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), WEDI was named in the 1996 HIPAA legislation as an advisor to HHS and continues to fulfill that role today.

## At WEDI, Shaping Health IT Is Our Business



Health IT is the lifeblood for most of today's healthcare organizations. To treat patients, collaborate on care and identify critical nuances in data, companies must be able to send and receive information quickly, yet securely. But with so many standards, so many regulations and so many players, it can be difficult to know what approach is optimum and what partnerships need to be forged.

Created by the HHS Secretary in 1991 and charged with reducing administrative costs in the nation's healthcare system, the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange has been facilitating improvements in information exchange through a voluntary, public-private collaboration. WEDI has been an instrumental force in establishing and later enhancing HIPAA standards for electronic transactions, data privacy and security. As a multi-stakeholder organization, with input from health plans, providers, standards organizations, IT vendors, and government entities, WEDI has been on the forefront of every major health IT issue facing our industry.

### Solving Critical Industry Issues

WEDI's mission is to bring together key organizations from across the healthcare spectrum to find solutions to the industry's most-pressing health IT issues. We seek to leverage the industry's collective technology, knowledge, expertise and information resources to improve the movement, quality, security and cost effectiveness of healthcare information.

*Our members represent every facet of the nation's healthcare industry, including:*



### Affecting Change Through Consensus

Stakeholders that come to WEDI find a uniquely cooperative environment where they can present and hear about solutions to today's public and private business needs and interchange challenges. By bringing the industry together, we are laying the groundwork for the future of healthcare information exchange.

Achieving success through an extensive workgroup structure, open public forums, Policy Advisory Groups (PAGs) and Technical Advisory Committees (TACs), WEDI receives input from all impacted stakeholders and distills those contributions into actionable recommendations for change.







## How WEDI Can Benefit YOUR Organization



**Programming.** WEDI provides insightful and timely educational programming tailored specifically to meet the needs of Healthcare IT Executives, Managers, and other related professionals.

**Networking.** Our events provide face-to-face networking opportunities with members and sponsors, enabling a collaborative forum to share concerns and solutions with your peers and address opportunities and challenges that are imperative to your business.

By providing a multitude of networking opportunities throughout the year with industry experts and decision-makers within the government and private sectors, WEDI members have the opportunity to influence the direction of health IT policy through participation in our work groups and public forums.

**Industry Expertise.** Through access to comprehensive knowledge resources, WEDI members can leverage information on health IT best practices, methodologies, and data exchange models. Member organizations can draw on materials that include white papers, issue briefs, and webinars to readily adapt to rapidly evolving business environments and regulatory requirements.

**Policy Updates.** To cope with an ever-changing policy environment, WEDI members receive regular updates on key regulatory, legislative and health IT standards changes and industry news.


*By being a part of WEDI, our 350+ member organizations:*

- **Demonstrate** a commitment to excellence in the healthcare industry, promoting the highest standards of data interchange and protection.
- **Establish** that their organization is an industry innovator, participating in a collaborative organization that develops industry-standard best practices.
- **Benefit** from WEDI's extensive resources that can help improve the operational efficiency and increase revenue of their business.



## Our Accomplishments

- Developed the foundation of administrative simplification provisions within the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in 1996
- Produced a Health ID Card guide required for use by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in Medicare Managed Care Part D and used by some commercial health plans
- Through our ICD-10 workgroup, developed comprehensive educational resources and a coding and testing website that supported the successful transition to the new code set
- Partnered with government agencies including CMS, OCR, and ONC on numerous industry health IT education and outreach initiatives
- Provided industry guidance on critical HIPAA privacy and security implementation issues
- Provided implementation guidance on healthcare transactions
- Testified multiple times before federal advisory bodies on important health IT issues
- Established dozens of workgroups focused on established topics such as transactions and security and emerging issues including payment models and genomics
- Created a collaborative environment where industry stakeholders could come together to drive industry consensus



*“Our members come together with a common goal to make the nation’s healthcare system more efficient. Every day, WEDI members volunteer their time and talent to provide thoughtful leadership and common-sense approaches to enhance the exchange of clinical and administrative healthcare information.”*

*— Charles Stellar, WEDI President and CEO*

