

Health Information Compliance Alert

Data Standards HHS ANNOUNCES SYSTEM FOR COLLECTING PATIENT SAFETY DATA

The HHS is shelling out the dough to facilitate the collection of patient safety data.

Department of Health and Human Services' Secretary Tommy Thompson announced Nov. 25 a \$5.9-million contract that aims to improve the Department's "collection and reporting of patient safety data."

The two-year contract, awarded through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, aims at generating an Internet system that will integrate and simplify current systems used by a number of HHS agencies.

The HHS believes the new system will significantly aid frontline providers.

Thompson said it is necessary to reduce the regulatory burdens that providers face when they must report patient safety data.

"If we can achieve that goal," Thompson said, "then we can more easily and quickly collect that information," which he claimed would ultimately improve both the quality and safety of healthcare for all Americans.

The new system would link HHS agencies' current reporting systems and integrate data from the National Healthcare Safety Network, under the direction of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.