

Health Information Compliance Alert

Enforcement News: ONC Enlists the States' Help with Protecting Patient Information

Due to a multitude of state laws and organizational roadblocks set up to implement HIPAA and protect patients' privacy, the ONC found that the flow and exchange of health information was actually being inhibited by the mandates.

In response to the issues caused by protective measures, the ONC decided to invest in the states' efforts to overcome these obstacles in order to provide quality care.

"That's why ONC awarded a cooperative funding agreement to the National Governors Association (NGA) to identify potential steps that could improve the flow of electronic health information within, and among states," an ONC press release from Dec. 2016 said. "We are thrilled to announce that, under that agreement, NGA has released a comprehensive road map for states to improve interoperability: Getting the Right Information to the Right Health Care Providers at the Right Time: A Road Map for States to Improve Health Information Flow Between Providers."

The NGA compiled the primer after discussing issues with health policy workers, health IT leaders, vendors, and stakeholders. The NGA road map hopes to improve the exchange of ePHI while assisting states with traversing their own individual laws and privacy mandates, so "they can learn from each other" and protect patient privacy in the process.

Resource: To read the ONC news release with a link to Getting the Right Information to the Right Health Care Providers at the Right Time: A Road Map for States to Improve Health Information Flow Between Providers, visit <https://www.healthit.gov/buzz-blog/privacy-and-security-of-ehrs/roadmap-states-addressing-privacy-policy-barriers-availability-flow-electronic-health-information/>.