The Importance of Health Information Flow Between Providers:
Exchange of clinical health information is critical to ensuring that providers have the best information possible when making decisions about patient care, minimizing repetition and errors, ensuring high-quality transitions of care and lowering costs.

The Problem:
The United States has experienced significant advancements in medical diagnostics and treatments for complex health problems in recent years; however, health care still lags far behind other sectors of the economy in the exchange of information to improve efficiency. Due to a variety of legal and market-based barriers, exchange of clinical health information between providers often does not occur, or occurs in a manner that does not allow for meaningful use of data to support optimal patient care.

The Purpose:
The road map was developed to activate governors and their senior state leaders to drive forward policies that support the seamless flow of clinical patient health care information between providers while protecting patient privacy, as a step toward nationwide interoperability.

The Audience:
The road map was developed for:
- Governors
- Governors’ senior health policy officials
- State lawmakers
- State health information technology officials
- State legislative counselors

Key Content:
The road map provides state leaders:
- A series of five steps to identify and address the major barriers to clinical information flow
- Legal and market-based strategies to address barriers and a high-level assessment of effectiveness of the strategies
- State examples of successful strategies
- Measures to evaluate progress

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