

**Provenance and the Nationwide Health Information Network**

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and

*my 2-year old son's learning model*

**Disclaimer**

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Given proposed meaningful uses for the nationwide health information network (NHIN) and research on provenance,

Describe applications of provenance in the NHIN.

Sweeney, L. *Provenance and the Nationwide Health Information Network*. Advance HIT Project. White Paper 1004. Harvard University. 2010.  
[In progress and under advisement! \(latanya@seas.harvard.edu AdvanceHIT.org\)](mailto:latanya@seas.harvard.edu)

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## Provenance

### Why

Describes why a particular piece of data is in the result set of a query.

### Where

Describes the source(s) from which a particular data element is derived.

### How

Describes how tuples in *where* provenances interact to produce a result.

Buneman et al. Why and Where: A Characterization of Data Provenance. *ACM SIGMOD*, 316-330, London, UK, Jan 2001.  
Green et al. Provenance semirings. *PODS '07*, 31-40, Beijing, China, 2007.

Given proposed meaningful uses for the nationwide health information network (NHIN) and research on provenance,

Describe applications of provenance in national health data sharing.

Given actual and proposed nationwide health data sharing and research on provenance,

Describe applications of provenance in national health data sharing.

### Health Data Divide

#### Claims

Sharing:  
insurers & others  
not include clinical data.

Optimized for income.

National connectivity  
processing billions of  
claims a year.

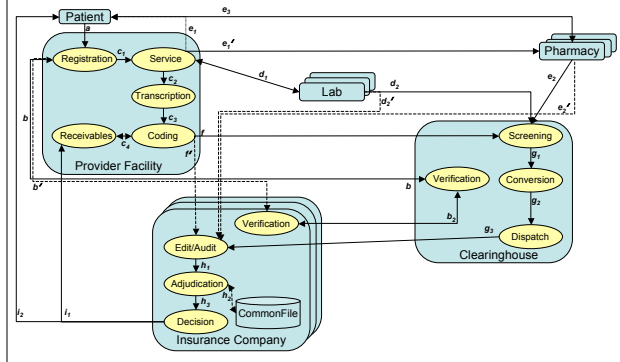
#### Clinical

Sharing:  
providers & others  
not include all local data.

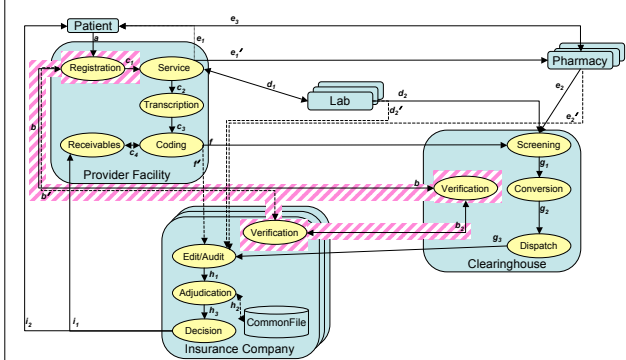
Documents patient care.

Few, disparate local areas  
processing select data  
from some patient visits.

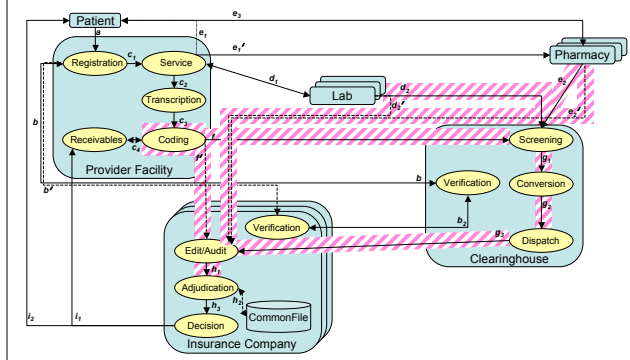
### Medical Billing Network

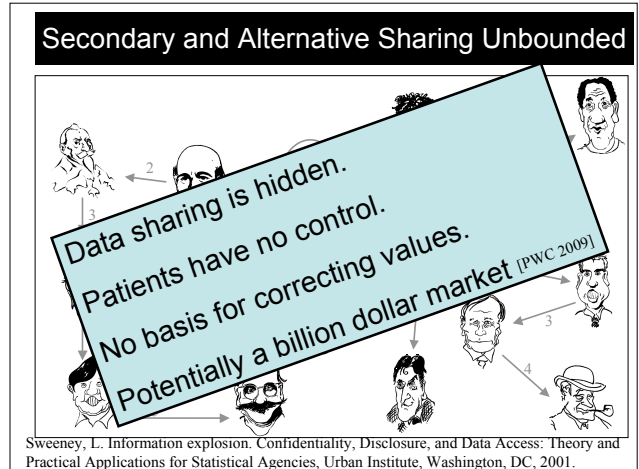
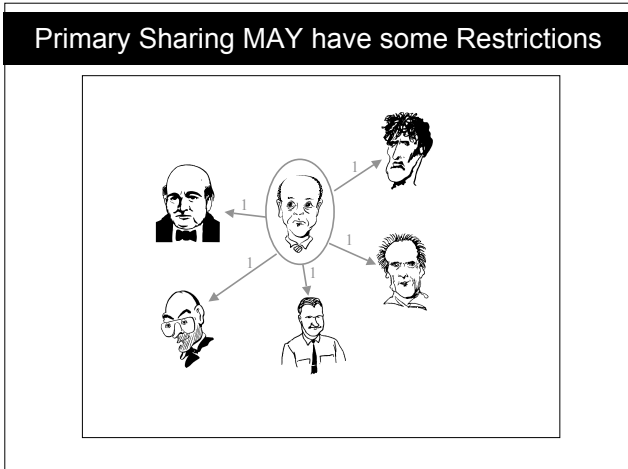
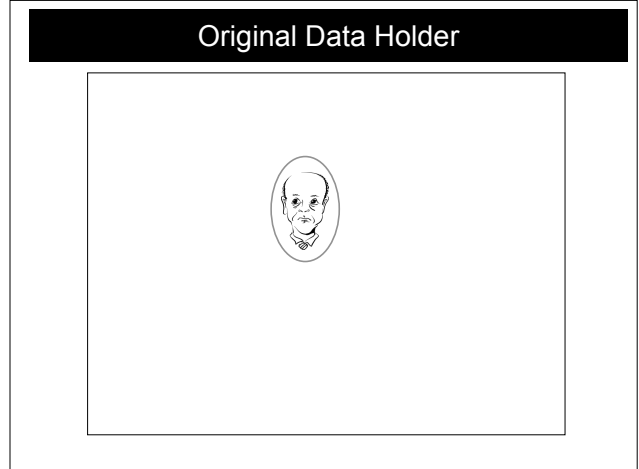
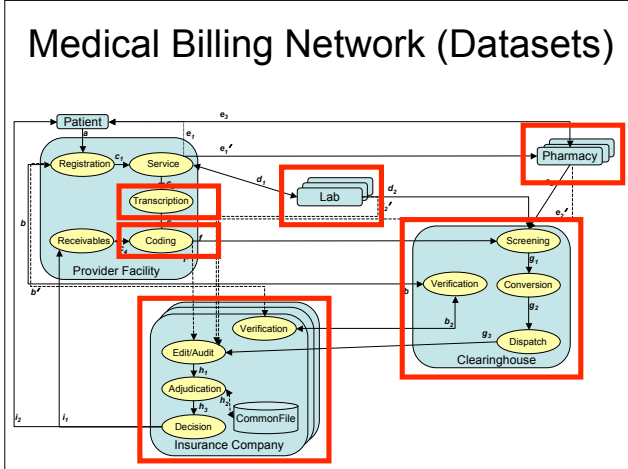


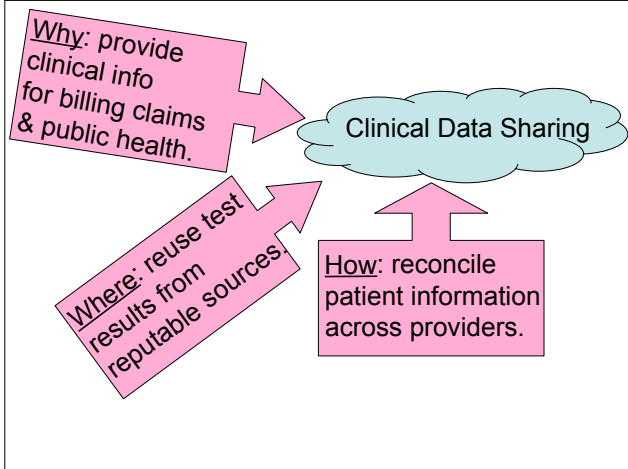
### Medical Billing Network (Verify)



### Medical Billing Network (Payment)







ARRA ("the stimulus bill") about \$19-40B.

Clinical Data Sharing

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("ARRA") Pub. L. 111-5.â

### Meaningful Uses

- CBOE for medication, laboratory, diagnostic, imaging, etc.  
CMS quality measure: % of orders so entered.
- Implement drug-drug, drug-allergy, drug-formulary checks.
- Maintain and up-to-date problem, medication, and allergy list
- Check insurance eligibility.  
CMS measure: % patient with insurance eligibility confirmed.
- Submit claims electronically.  
CMS measure: % claims submitted electronically to all payers.
- Exchange clinical information (e.g. medication list, allergy list).  
CMS measure: exchange clinical info (e.g. medication list).

Federal HIT Policy Committee, Final Meaningful Use Objectives and Measures: 2011-2013-2015. At <healthit.hhs.gov>

### Regional Exchanges

Connectivity? Data flow? Work flow?

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. *Assuring a Health Dimension for the National Information Infrastructure: a concept paper.* Presented to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Data Council. October 14, 1998. [www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/hii-nii.htm](http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/hii-nii.htm)

1. How are records for the same patient identified as belonging to the same person?
2. What information is made available to which providers?
3. How is relevant patient information determined, consolidated and provided prior to a patient's care?
4. How are data audits conducted?
5. How is data provenance tracked?
6. How are data provenance and sharing...
7. How are data provenance and sharing...
8. How are data provenance and sharing...
9. How are data provenance and sharing...

Gap in readiness!  
More about design solutions later in this talk.

Sweeney, L. *Background for Competitive Designs for the National Health Information Infrastructure*. Advance HIT Project. White Paper 1002. Carnegie Mellon University. 2009.

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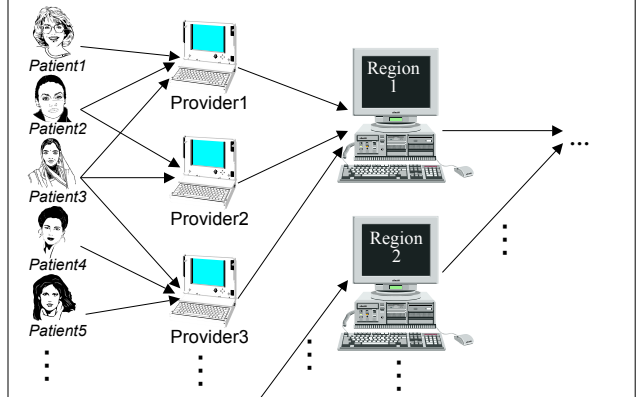
Describe applications of provenance in the NHIN.

### Complex Provenance

I naively introduce the term complex provenance to describe problems whose aim involves one kind of provenance but whose solutions tend to introduce unwanted side effects in another kind of provenance.

In the next slides, I introduce 3 sample health data sharing applications involving complex provenance.

### Deduplicated Accounting



## Deduplicated Accounting

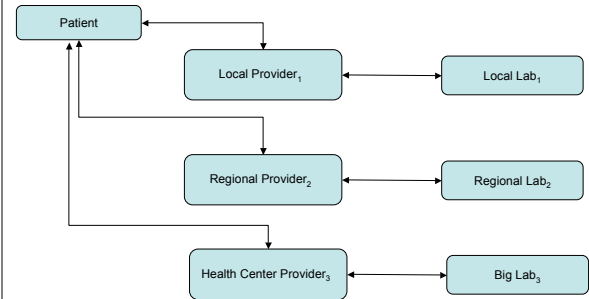
### Aim ( Why )

Goal is to get a distinct global count of patients matching a given criteria. Validation seeks to describe why a particular patient is in the result set.

### Complication ( Where )

Common approach is to provide identifiers (e.g., patient SSNs) rather than counts so recipient can perform deduplication. This generates a privacy concern by explicitly describing source(s).

## Testing & Liability



## Testing & Liability

### Aim ( Where )

Goal is to reuse test results. In order to do so, must make sure source is reputable and image is not modified and belongs to the correct patient and is accurate. ("digital signatures")

### Complication ( How )

Providers are concerned about liability. Credentials are not the same as a trustworthy relationship. If a provider acts on results, even in part, he increases his liability.

## Direct Care Improvement

10/27/2005 <sup>2</sup>	Pharmacy filled prescription for penicillin.
10/28/2005	Emergency room visit: diagnosis and procedures show allergic reaction to penicillin with an immediate hypersensitivity reaction.
1/3/2009	Diagnosis of pregnancy
...	... visits related to pregnancy

Dr. Faye recommends an endocarditis prophylaxis and prescribes Biocef, orally. Life-threatening complications result because Eve did not remember, and Dr. Faye did not know, that Eve has a penicillin allergy with an immediate hypersensitivity reaction.

## Direct Care Improvement

### Aim ( How )

Goal is use consolidated information over time and from different providers to improve decision-making for the patient. Meaningful uses include patient reminders and drug-allergy interactions.

### Complication ( Why )

Need to decide whether a particular piece of data should be in the result set or whether it should be valued, or whether data may be missing.

Given proposed meaningful uses for the nationwide health information network (NHIN) and research on provenance,

Describe applications of provenance in the NHIN.

- 3 complex provenance applications
- 2 provenance components

## Data Segmentation

Goal is to provide patients with some privacy protection by allowing some data not to be shared.

### How

Generates an "inference problem" about data relations that may allow the missing information to be learned.

## Corrections

In the data sharing environments described so far, there is no mechanism for propagating corrections or updating information.

### Why

Can generate false information when incorrect data is in the result set.

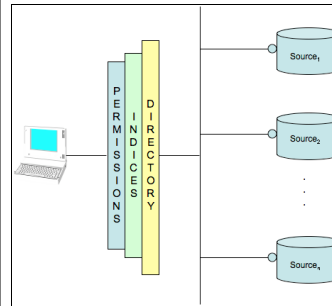


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*“resolving problems through the design of the NHIN”*

Sweeney et al. *Trustworthy Designs for the NHIN*. Advance HIT Project. White Paper 1003. Harvard University. 2010.

### Design 1: Global Query

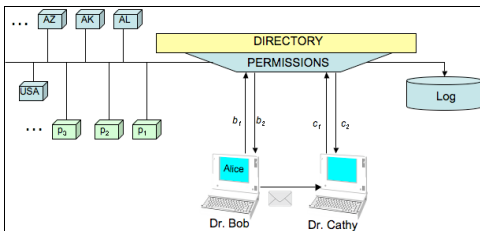


Answer queries across a collection of repositories in real-time, providing the same answer as if all data were centralized.

Analogy: web searching.

Also: numeric results, e.g. counts, regressions, and percentages. Another form of query is data extraction.

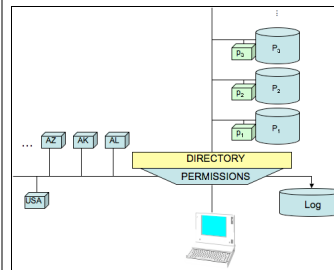
### Design 2: Certified Delivery



Point-to-point delivery of health information with verifiable and accountable endorsements of sender and receiver per contents. Analogy: email and fax .

Centralized (design 1) or de-centralized services (above).

### Design 3: Patient Central

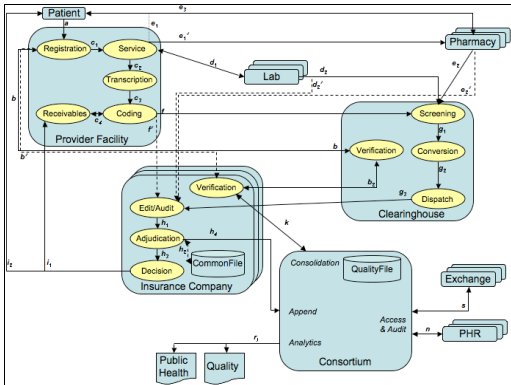


Uses globally available storage of patient information arranged by patient.

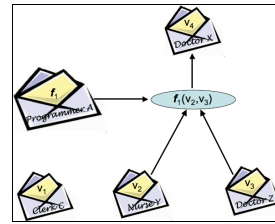
Analogy: file cabinet.

An EMR not “patient health record” (PHR).

### Design 4: Medical Billing Backbone



### Design 5: Heavy Data

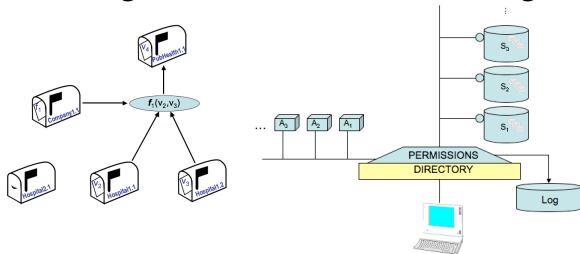


Tethers or embeds meta-information along with data values. Meta information travels with data.

“Dependency tracking model” adds retrospective accountability. (shown)

“Sticky policies” affixed to data values to represent data sharing allowances, prohibitions and consents.

### Design 6: Pointer Addressing



Share published network addresses of data rather than data values themselves.

Pointer addressing (a) and its use with heavy data using grid computing technologies (b).

### Base Case Designs

#### Fax and Email

Common method currently done.

#### NHIN Connect

Software operations: (1) patient lookup; (2) document query; (3) document retrieval; (4) audit log query; (5) authorized case follow-up; and, (6) event messaging.

#### Secure Email

Provides send email over secure channels to combat eavesdropping.

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