



[HHS releases software linking health IT systems to national network](#)

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology today released free software to help public and private organizations connect to the Nationwide Health Information Network, a federal initiative to facilitate the electronic exchange of health information. More than 20 federal agencies created the CONNECT software to link to the network, which uses interoperability standards recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as well as public and private sector specifications, participation agreements and policies. "This software will strengthen our health systems' ability to share data electronically and provide a wide range of benefits to citizens," said Robert Kolodner, M.D., national coordinator for health IT. The software and supporting documentation are available at www.connectopensource.org.