

Modernizing the Medicaid enterprise: State CIOs and the MITA framework

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Guest blog by Chad Grant, senior policy analyst, National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO):

This is an unprecedented time for health IT in state agencies. Each stakeholder that comprises the health care system is trying to achieve lower costs, better health outcomes, and build trust within the numerous systems that relay a growing amount of personally identifiable information (PII) and personal health information (PHI). Currently, states have a golden opportunity for Medicaid IT transformation because of enhanced funding opportunities set forth by CMS. States should be mindful of maximizing the value of tax-payer dollars and consider how an enterprise approach to Medicaid IT can embrace the principles of being strong stewards of fiscal sustainability and break down existing silos.

In response to the CMS release of MITA 3.0, the NASCIO Health Care Working Group has formulated guidance for states as they navigate Medicaid IT transformation. NASCIO continues to be an advocate for enterprise solutions and views the MITA framework as a way state CIOs can decouple legacy systems and increase information sharing across state agency silos. State CIOs grasp the importance of modernizing the Medicaid enterprise in a way that is flexible, interoperable, and takes into consideration emerging technologies like cloud computing. In addition to emphasizing conformity to the MITA vision, the brief calls attention to emerging security threats in states and the resources available for state planning. To view a copy of the brief, "A Golden Opportunity for Medicaid IT Transformation: State CIOs and the MITA Framework," please click [here](#).

Deltek's Take:

Since 1965, the Medicaid program has been an ever-changing system influenced by state and federal actions, legislative initiatives, and increasing technological advances. Though states had state-of-the-art Medicaid management information systems (MMIS) just a few years ago, they are now burdened by legacy components and struggling to keep up with recent mandates to integrate with health insurance exchanges (HIX) and health information exchanges (HIE). In November 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the long-awaited draft of the Medicaid Information Technology Architecture (MITA) 3.0 document. The MITA initiative was first introduced back in March 2006, with the goal of establishing national guidelines for processes and technologies to improve state administration of Medicaid programs.

Non-Medicaid vendors cannot afford to turn a blind eye on the MITA initiative, as many in the human services arena are eyeing the framework for their respective systems. States and vendors need to embrace MITA and every future version that follows as roadmaps are updated to adopt new and improved guidelines. Software solution vendors in the health care and human services space will need to incorporate MITA standards and ideals into their products if they intend to win government business now and in the future.

Thank you to Chad Grant of NASCIO for his blog contribution.

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