## Research Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool Development</th>
<th>Data-Sharing Enabler</th>
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## At a Glance

- **Status:** Active Consortium
- **Year Launched:** 1991
- **Initiating Organization:** Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI)
- **Initiator Type:** Government
- **Location:** North America

## Abstract

The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) is the leading authority on the use of health information technology (IT) to improve healthcare information exchange in order to enhance the quality of care, improve efficiency, and reduce costs of the American healthcare system. Formed in 1991 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), WEDI was named in the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) legislation as an advisor to HHS and continues to fulfill that role today. Serving as a private and public industry solution to critical healthcare problems, WEDI is a coalition composed of a cross-section of the healthcare industry: doctors, hospitals, health plans, laboratories, pharmacies, clearinghouses, dentists, vendors, government regulators, and other industry stakeholders.

## Mission

WEDI is a private and public industry solution to critical healthcare problems. Its members join together with one thing in common — to make the American healthcare system more efficient. Its vision is to improve the quality of healthcare through effective and efficient information exchange and management.
WEDI brings together multiple stakeholders and drives industry consensus. Through an extensive workgroup structure, open public forums, Policy Advisory Groups (PAGs), and Technical Advisory Committees (TACs), WEDI collects input from all stakeholders and distills those thoughts into pinpoint recommendations for change. WEDI’s stakeholders represent solutions to today’s public and private business needs and interchange challenges. Together, they are laying the groundwork for the future of healthcare information exchange.

WEDI’s mission is to provide multi-stakeholder leadership and guidance to the nation’s healthcare system on how to use and leverage the industry’s collective technology, knowledge, expertise, and information resources to improve the administrative efficiency, quality, and cost-effectiveness of healthcare information.

**Consortium History**

Created by the HHS secretary in 1991 and named in the HIPAA legislation as an advisor to the HHS secretary, WEDI continues to be the source for information, education, and innovation in health IT for the leading health plans, providers, vendors, and government agencies.

**Structure & Governance**

WEDI is governed by a Board of Directors and contains many committees. For a full list of committees, see WEDI’s website at [http://www.wedi.org/forms/committee/CommitteeFormPublic/search?action=find](http://www.wedi.org/forms/committee/CommitteeFormPublic/search?action=find)

WEDI is named in the HIPAA legislation as an advisor to the HHS secretary. In fulfilling that obligation, WEDI works through two vehicles to collect input from the industry in order to formulate an industry perspective on key issues, including PAGs and TACs.

PAGs are best thought of as a public forum where industry is able to review a proposed or final regulation and where the healthcare industry has an opportunity to collectively provide industry consensus and recommendations on a given policy. PAGs can be held both face-to-face or virtually. In a PAG, votes are registered and only one representative can vote per company. Although member and
nonmembers can participate in the PAG, votes are restricted to WEDI members only.

The PAG facilitators (WEDI volunteers) then take the votes and comments and create a findings document that is reviewed by the WEDI Board of Director’s policy committee and voted upon by the full WEDI Board of Directors. Those recommendations are then sent on to the HHS secretary.

TACs are also public forums but are typically used to provide feedback to other organizations outside of HHS. TACs can be in-person or face-to-face, and votes are taken in the form of a straw poll.

The TAC facilitators (WEDI volunteers) then take the votes and comments and create a findings document that is reviewed by the WEDI Board of Director’s policy committee and voted upon by the full WEDI Board of Directors. Those recommendations are then sent on to the appropriate organization based on what was reviewed (e.g., a particular standard, operating rule).

Patent Engagement

The WEDI Report Patient Enablement sub-workgroup endeavors to enable patient engagement by developing and evaluating methods for identifying patients uniquely, creating and updating capabilities of electronic patient history and evidence of benefits, and improving patient access to, trust in, and usability of electronic healthcare data. The sub-workgroup will outline requirements for implementation and roles and responsibilities of healthcare stakeholders in facilitating change and implementation.

Data Sharing

The Health Information Exchange (HIE) Workgroup was formed to establish an HIE-based WEDI workgroup to address the unique requirements associated with the implementation and operational support of technical- and business-related activities under the governance of HIE organizations. Stakeholders include healthcare providers, HIE organizations, vendors, state government agencies, and regional nonprofits with responsibility for implementation of HIT-related healthcare reform (including the HIE Cooperative Agreement).

The HIE Workgroup intends to reach out to accountability care organization (ACO)/HIE governance bodies, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), Centers for
Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), health plans, and consumers. The goals of the HIE Workgroup include standardization and interoperability, security, privacy, medical record coding requirements, governance, and sustainability. The HIE Workgroup works closely with the Security & Privacy Workgroup as it relates to HIE privacy and security standards, protocols, practices, and related topics to closely coordinate activity related to overlapping HIE workgroup efforts.

Impact/Accomplishment


In December 2012, the WEDI Foundation leadership commissioned an update to the 1993 WEDI Report in order to provide an opportunity to evaluate progress on recommendations made in the earlier report, reflect on lessons learned, determine whether recommendations for administrative simplification made 20 years prior were still germane today, and identify immediate future needs. WEDI, in its HIPAA statutory role as advisor to the HHS secretary, could bring together healthcare stakeholders to address critical health IT implementation issues and provide guidance on HIE issues that were again confronting the nation. In short, the goal was for the WEDI Foundation (WEDI’s separate 501(c)(3) organization) and WEDI to help the healthcare industry further improve its information exchange processes in order to lower costs, improve healthcare delivery, and lead to better healthcare outcomes for patients.

Links/Social Media Feed

Homepage http://www.wedi.org/home
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/WEDIonline/399538020117535
Twitter https://twitter.com/wedionline
LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=4186533

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American Dental Association
American Hospital Assn./HH&N
American Hospital Association
American Medical Association
American Medical News
American Society for Automation in Pharmacy
America’s Health Insurance Plans
AngMar Medical Holdings
Blue Care Network of Michigan
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana
Blue Cross of Northeastern PA
Blue Shield of CA
BMC Healthnet Plan
Bon Secours
Boost Payment Solutions, LLC
Boundary Information Group
California Health & Human Services
CalOptima
Calvet
Cambia Health Solutions
Capital Blue Cross
CAQH
CareFirst
CareMedic Systems, Inc.
CareMore Medical Enterprises
CareOregon
Cariten Healthcare
Catamaran
Centene Corporation
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CHCS Services, Inc.
Cherokee Nation
Chief Business Office Veterans Health Administration HIPAA Project Management Office
Christiana Care
Christiana Care Health System
CHRISTUS Health
CIGNA Government Services
CIGNA Health Care
CIGNA HealthCare of Arizona
CIGNA Voluntary
Citrix Systems, Inc.
ClaimRemedi
ClearDATA
CMS-Office of Enterprise Management
CNO Services LLC
Cognosante, LLC
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
Community Health Choice
Community Health Network of Connecticut
Community Health Systems
Commonwealth of PA Department of Public Welfare
Conexia
Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange
Cooperative Exchange
Cornichon Healthcare Select, LLC
Corphealth, Inc.
COUNTY OF DUNN - DUNN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health
Coventry Workers’ Comp Services
CSC Healthcare
CSC
DaVita
Defense Health Agency
DELL Services
Delta Dental of Arkansas
Delta Dental of California
Delta Dental of Colorado
Delta Dental of Idaho
Delta Dental of Iowa
Delta Dental of Kentucky
Delta Dental of Michigan
Delta Dental of New Jersey
Delta Dental of New Mexico
Delta Dental of Oklahoma
Delta Dental of Rhode Island
Delta Dental of Virginia
Delta Dental of Wisconsin
Delta Dental Plans Association
Department of Vermont Health Access
Department of Veterans Affairs
Dept of Health Care Services - Ofc of HIPAA Compliance
District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance
DoD Health Affairs
DST Health Care
Edifecs
eHealth Ohio
EHG-DentalXChange
EHNAC
Eldorado Computing, Inc.
EmblemHealth
Emdeon Business Services
Emdeon Corporation
EMEDIX Reimbursement Solutions
Emerging Health Information Technologies
Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield
Epic
Excellus BCBS
Express Scripts, Inc.
Fallon Community Health Plan
Federation of American Hospitals
First Choice Health
First Pacific Corporation
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
Florida Blue
Florida Division of Workers' Compensation
Florida Medicaid
Food and Drug Administration
Fortinet
GEHA
Geisinger Health Plan
Geisinger Health System
Gillette Childrens Specialty Healthcare
Greater New York Hospital Association
Great-West Healthcare
Greenway Clearinghouse
Group Health Incorporated
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
Hawaii Medical Service Assoc.
Health & Human Services Agency - OHiO
Health Care Service Corporation
Health Information Exchange Office
Health Language
Health Net of California
Health Net, Inc.
Healthaxis
Healthcare Billing & Management Association
Healthcare Extranets LLC
HealthCare Information Management, Inc.
Healthcare Management Administrators
HealthPartners
HealthPlus of Michigan
Healthtrio
Hewlett Packard
HHS Office for Civil Rights
Highmark BC/BS
Highmark Health Services
Highmark Medicare Services
HighPoint Solutions
Hillsborough County
HIMSS
HIPAA COW
Horizon BCBSNJ
HP Enterprise Services
HTMS
Humana, Inc.
IBM Global Business Services
IBM Security Services
IBM
IBM/Genelco
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
IN Office Medicaid Policy & Planning
Independent Health
Indian Health Service
Indiana State Dept. of Health
inMediata
InstaMed Communications
Inter Valley Health Plan
Intermountain Healthcare
Intracorp
Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
Johns Hopkins Health System
Johns Hopkins Healthcare/EHP
Johns Hopkins Information Technology
Johns Hopkins University
Jopari Solutions
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Ohio
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan
Kaiser Permanente
Kansas DCHS
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Kunz, Leigh & Associates
L.A. Care Health Plan
LabCorp
Lantana Consulting Group
Liberty Medical Supply, Inc.
Los Angeles County, Department of Mental Health
Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals
Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals/Office of Mental Health
MAHP
Maricom Systems Inc.
Marshfield Clinic
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange
Maryland Health Care Commission
Maryland Medical Care Programs
MassHealth
MasterCard
Mayo Clinic
Med USA
Medica Health Plan
Medical Group Management Association
Medical Mutual of Ohio
Medical Services Administration of Puerto Rico
Medicity, Inc.
MedImpact Healthcare Systems
Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Mercy Health Plans
Mercy Health System
MercyCare
MGMA Connexion
Michigan Department of Community Health
Michigan Public Health Institute
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Department of Human Services Legal Management Office
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Dept. of Labor & Industry
Missouri Department of Mental Health
Missouri Office of Administration- ITSD
Mitchell & McCormick, Inc.
Mitchell International, Inc.
MITRE Corp
MO HealthNet Division
Moda Health Plan, Inc.
Montefiore Medical Center
Moserhaus Consulting, LLC
Mphasis Ltd.
MVP Health Care
NAACOS
NACHA - The Electronic Payments Association
NALC Health Benefit Plan
NAMM California
NASCO
National Council for Prescription Drug Programs
National Government Services
Navicure, Inc.
NC DHHS/DIRM
NC DHHS-OMMISS
NC Division of Medical Assistance
NC Division of Public Health
Nebo Systems, Inc.
Nebraska Health & Human Services System
Nebraska Medicaid
Neocore Partners, LLC
Network Health, Inc.
Nevada County Behavioral Health
Nevada Medicaid
New Mexico Human Services Department
New York State Cancer Registry
New York State Medicaid
NextGen Healthcare
Noblis
Noridian Administrative Services, LLC
Noridian Mutual, Inc.
North Carolina Dept. of Health & Human Services
North Dakota Department of Human Services-Information Technology Services, Medicaid Systems Operations
Northeast Delta Dental
Office of Health Information Integrity
Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation
Ohio Department of Medicaid
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
ONC
OneHealthPort
Optimity Advisors
Optum
OptumHealth
OptumHealth Financial Services
OptumHealth Specialty Benefits
Oracle
Oregon Health Authority
Orlando Health, Inc.
OSHPD
Oxford Health Plans
PacifiCare
Passport Health
Passport Health Communications
Peninsula Regional Support Network
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
Phreesia
Physicians Health Plan of Northern Indiana
Plexis Healthcare Systems, Inc.
PNC Bank
PNC Expack Network Services
Post-n-Track Corporation
ppoONE
Practice Fusion, Inc.
Practice Insight, LLC
Precyse Solutions
Premera Blue Cross
Presbyterian Health Services
PrimeWest Health
PriorityHealth
Proje Inc.
Providence Health and Services
Providence Health System
Pulse Systems Inc.
PwC
QCSi
QuadraMed Corporation
Qualis Health
Radiology Business Management Association
RealMed, an Availity Company
Regence BCBS of Oregon
Regence BCBS of Utah
Regence Blue Shield of Idaho
Regence Blue Shield of Washington
RemitDATA
Resolution Health, Inc.
San Francisco Health Plan
Schaller Anderson of Arizona
Secure Exchange Solutions
Select Health
Sharp Healthcare
Siemens Healthcare
Smart Data Solutions
Social Security Administration
Society of Professional Benefit Administrators
South Carolina DHHS
Southwest Life and Health
Spectrum Health
State Farm Insurance
State of Alaska
State of California Department of Health Care Services
State of California, DHS
State of Colorado
State of Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
State of Nevada, Division of Health Care Financing & Policy
State of Oregon, Workers Compensation Division
State of Washington Department of Social & Health Services
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
Sutter Physician Services
Tacoma Fire Department
Tampa General Hospital
TASCET
Tenet Healthcare Corporation
Tesa Clearinghouse
Texas Department of Insurance
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
Texas Health Resources
Texas HHSC
The Federal Employee Program Operations Center
The Most Group, Inc.
TIBCO Software, Inc.
TM Floyd & Company
TMG Health Inc.
TMHP
Tompkins County Mental Health Services
Transunion Healthcare
TRICARE Management Activity
TriZetto Corporation
Tufts Health Plan
UniCare
United Concordia
United Medical Resources, Inc. a division of UnitedHealth Group
UnitedHealth Group
UnitedHealth Technologies
UnitedHealthcare
University of Maryland Faculty Physicians Inc.
University of Oklahoma
Upper Peninsula Health Plan
US Dept. of HHS, Nat’l Health Info. Infrastructure
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Utah Health Information Network
Utah Medicaid
Utah Retirement Systems
Utah Retirement Systems/PEHP
UW Medicine
UW Physicians
VA Financial Services Center
VA Health Administration Center
Vanguard Health Systems
Verizon Information Technologies
Verizon Information Technologies, Inc.
VHA Chief Business Office
Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Virginia DMAS
WA Department of Labor and Industries
Washington Dental Service
Washington University Medical School
Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services
Webify Solutions, Inc.
WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
Wellmark BCBS of South Dakota
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Wellmark BlueCross BlueShield of Iowa
WellPoint Inc.
WEX Inc.
Wheatlands Administrative Services
Wisconsin Medicaid
Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange
WPS Insurance
XIFIN
ZirMed, Inc.

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