**Summary:** Requires the development of standards and protocols to promote the interoperability of systems for enrollment of individuals in Federal and State health and human services programs. These standards shall allow for electronic data matching, and electronic documentation. The Secretary may require State or other entities to incorporate such standards as a condition of receiving Federal health information technology funds.

**Next steps:**
- August 19, 2010 – HIT Policy Committee approved initial standards
- August 30, 2010 – HIT Standards Committee approved initial standards
- September 17, 2010 – Secretary Sebelius adopted initial standards with some changes
- September 23, 2010 – Secretary to develop enrollment standards and protocols (statutory deadline)

**Additional information:**

**Long summary:**
Sec. 1561. Health information technology (HIT) enrollment standards and protocols (as modified by sec. 10107).
Within 180 days of enactment, the Secretary of HHS (in consultation with the HIT Policy Committee and HIT Standards Committee) must develop interoperable and secure standards and protocols that facilitate enrollment of individuals in federal and state health and human services programs.

**Required methods and content.** The Secretary is to determine appropriate methods for facilitating enrollment, including providing notification to individuals of eligibility and verification of eligibility. Such standards must include (1) standards and protocols to allow for electronic matching against existing federal and state data; (2)simplification and submission of electronic documentation; (3) reuse of stored eligibility information and documentation; (4) capability for individuals to apply, recertify and manage eligibility information online; (5) ability to expand the enrollment system to integrate new programs and rules, and to operate at increased volume; (6) communication of notices and other functionalities.
Notification and condition of participation. The Secretary must notify states of standards and protocols once developed and approved by the HIT Policy and HIT Standards committees, and may require that states incorporate the standards as a condition of receiving federal HIT investments.

Grant program. The Secretary to award grants to states or sub-state governments to develop and adapt systems to implement the protocols and standards. Enrollment technologies developed under grants to be shared with other states and appropriate entities at no cost. No separate authorization line for the grant program and no specific appropriations.

Effective date. Provision is effective March 23, 2010.

Legislative text:
SEC. 1561. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ENROLLMENT STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS.
Title XXX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300jj et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subtitle C—Other Provisions
“SEC. 3021. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ENROLLMENT STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS.
“(a) IN GENERAL.—
“(1) STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary, in consultation with the HIT Policy Committee and the HIT Standards Committee, shall develop interoperable and secure standards and protocols that facilitate enrollment of individuals in Federal and State health and human services programs, as determined by the Secretary.
“(2) METHODS.—The Secretary shall facilitate enrollment in such programs through methods determined appropriate by the Secretary, which shall include providing individuals and third parties authorized by such individuals and their designees notification of eligibility and verification of eligibility required under such programs.
“(b) CONTENT.—The standards and protocols for electronic enrollment in the Federal and State programs described in subsection (a) shall allow for the following:
“(1) Electronic matching against existing Federal and State data, including vital records, employment history, enrollment systems, tax records, and other data determined appropriate by the Secretary to serve as evidence of eligibility and in lieu of paper-based documentation.
“(2) Simplification and submission of electronic documentation, digitization of documents, and systems verification of eligibility.
“(3) Reuse of stored eligibility information (including documentation) to assist with retention of eligible individuals.
“(4) Capability for individuals to apply, recertify and manage their eligibility information online, including at home, at points of service, and other community-based locations.
“(5) Ability to expand the enrollment system to integrate new programs, rules, and functionalities, to operate at increased volume, and to apply streamlined verification and eligibility processes to other Federal and State programs, as appropriate.
“(6) Notification of eligibility, recertification, and other needed communication regarding eligibility, which may include communication via email and cellular phones.
“(7) Other functionalities necessary to provide eligibles with streamlined enrollment process.
“(c) APPROVAL AND NOTIFICATION.—With respect to any standard or protocol developed under subsection (a) that has been approved by the HIT Policy Committee and the HIT Standards Committee, the Secretary—
“(1) shall notify States of such standards or protocols; and
“(2) may require, as a condition of receiving Federal funds for the health information technology investments, that States or other entities incorporate such standards and protocols into such investments.
“(d) GRANTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROPRIATE ENROLLMENT HIT.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grant to eligible entities to develop new, and adapt existing, technology systems to implement the HIT enrollment standards and protocols developed under subsection (a) (referred to in this subsection as ‘appropriate HIT technology’).
“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible for a grant under this subsection, an entity shall—
“(A) be a State, political subdivision of a State, or a local governmental entity; and
“(B) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing—
“(i) a plan to adopt and implement appropriate enrollment technology that includes—
“(I) proposed reduction in maintenance costs of technology systems;
“(II) elimination or updating of legacy systems; and
“(III) demonstrated collaboration with other entities that may receive a grant under this section that are located in
the same State, political subdivision, or locality;
“(ii) an assurance that the entity will share such appropriate enrollment technology in accordance with paragraph
(4); and
“(iii) such other information as the Secretary may require.
“(3) SHARING.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that appropriate enrollment HIT adopted under grants under this
subsection is made available to other qualified State, qualified political subdivisions of a State, or other appropriate
qualified entities (as described in subparagraph (B)) at no cost.
“(B) QUALIFIED ENTITIES.—The Secretary shall determine what entities are qualified to receive enrollment HIT
under subparagraph (A), taking into consideration the recommendations of the HIT Policy Committee and the HIT
Standards Committee.”.