

Interoperability: Federation and Identity-enabled Web Services in Healthcare

Participating companies: MedCommons, Symlabs and Sun Microsystems

MedCommons, Symlabs and Sun Microsystems are demonstrating the standards-based federation of the key participants in a regional or national health information exchange including a health care institution, an independent personal health records service and a record locator service to manage queries for personal health information. The demonstration uses the ANSI-standard ASTM-CCR Continuity of Care Record as the interchange document format together with Liberty Federation (ID-FF) and Liberty Web Services (ID-WSF) to ensure identity-based access, interoperability and a consistent user interface as patients and practitioners are asked to make informed information disclosure choices. The demonstration shows how a physician signed-on to the electronic health record (EHR) of her hospital sees a combined view of patient information that includes medications and insurance information supplied by the personal health record (PHR) identity service.

Adding identity web services functionality to federation capabilities in an eHealth environment enables many interesting capabilities:

- Enhances patient control of health information in a multi-enterprise, multi-vendor RHIO
- Enables controlled discovery, invocation, and consent for accessing web-service health information
- Allows for escalation of physician authority in emergency situations (the "break glass" scenario)
- Integrates medical and non-medical identity-based information access while protecting patient privacy

