Biosurveillance

Background:
The threat of significant natural or man-made health events is a critical issue for the nation. The ability to detect events rapidly, manage the events and appropriately mobilize resources in response can save lives. Information from hospitals, other providers and ancillary facilities can be electronically reported and monitored without identifying patients and serve to provide a near real-time view of the health of our communities. These data can be shared with and among local, state, and federal public authorities to support shared and unique needs at all levels of government.

Broad Area:
Implement real-time nationwide public health event monitoring and support rapid response management across public health and care delivery communities and other authorized government agencies.

Specific Use Case Area:
Transmit essential ambulatory care and emergency department visit, utilization, and lab result data from electronically enabled health care delivery and public health systems in standardized and anonymized format to authorized public health agencies with less than one day lag time.

Consumer Empowerment

Background:
Consumer empowerment is the active involvement of consumers in managing their health care and gaining the benefits of having their health information in an easily accessible format to them. This includes having a personal health record to track family history, medications, and other special conditions a consumer may have.

As part of a personal health record, a medication history provides the consumer with an updated list of all medications in an easily accessible format. Most individuals do not know the specific medications and exact dosages that have been prescribed to them, and often do not know their allergies. In addition, clinicians do not always have consistent prescription information about the same individual. Too often, this results in errors or unnecessary treatments. A medication history would have all the current data in one location, available to the individual and to each authorized healthcare provider. The need
for medication history was highlighted by the high interest in the KatrinaHealth.org web tool. Having a complete electronic medication list would also prevent drug-to-drug interactions when subsequent prescriptions are written.

A vital part of a personal health record is registration information. Going to the doctor or hospital often requires filling out multiple forms. These forms collect information such as name, address, insurance, medications, allergies, etc. Then, when an individual requires lab work or other testing, the same information has to be collected again. A single electronic health registration will make it easier for individuals to give their information and for clinicians to use it. Additionally, the consumer could update the information once and share it with all providers immediately as needed.

**Broad Area:**
Gain wide adoption of a personal health record that is easy-to-use, portable, longitudinal, affordable, and consumer-centered.

**Specific Use Case Area:**
Deploy to targeted populations a pre-populated, consumer-directed and secure electronic registration summary. Deploy a widely available pre-populated medication history linked to the registration summary.

**Electronic Health Record**

**Background:**
Driving adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) requires reducing the loss and risk physicians face when investing in EHRs. This risk be reduced by ensuring EHR products comply with minimal standards for functionality, security and interoperability; and helping provide implementation support to doctors so they can re-engineer their business processes with IT.

**Broad Area:**
Support the implementation of interoperable, certified EHRs, minimizing integration issues for providers.

**Specific Use Case Area:**
Deploy standardized, widely available, secure solutions for accessing laboratory results and interpretations in a patient-centric manner for clinical care by authorized parties.