CRITICAL ROLES FOR LIBRARIANS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH IT AGENDA

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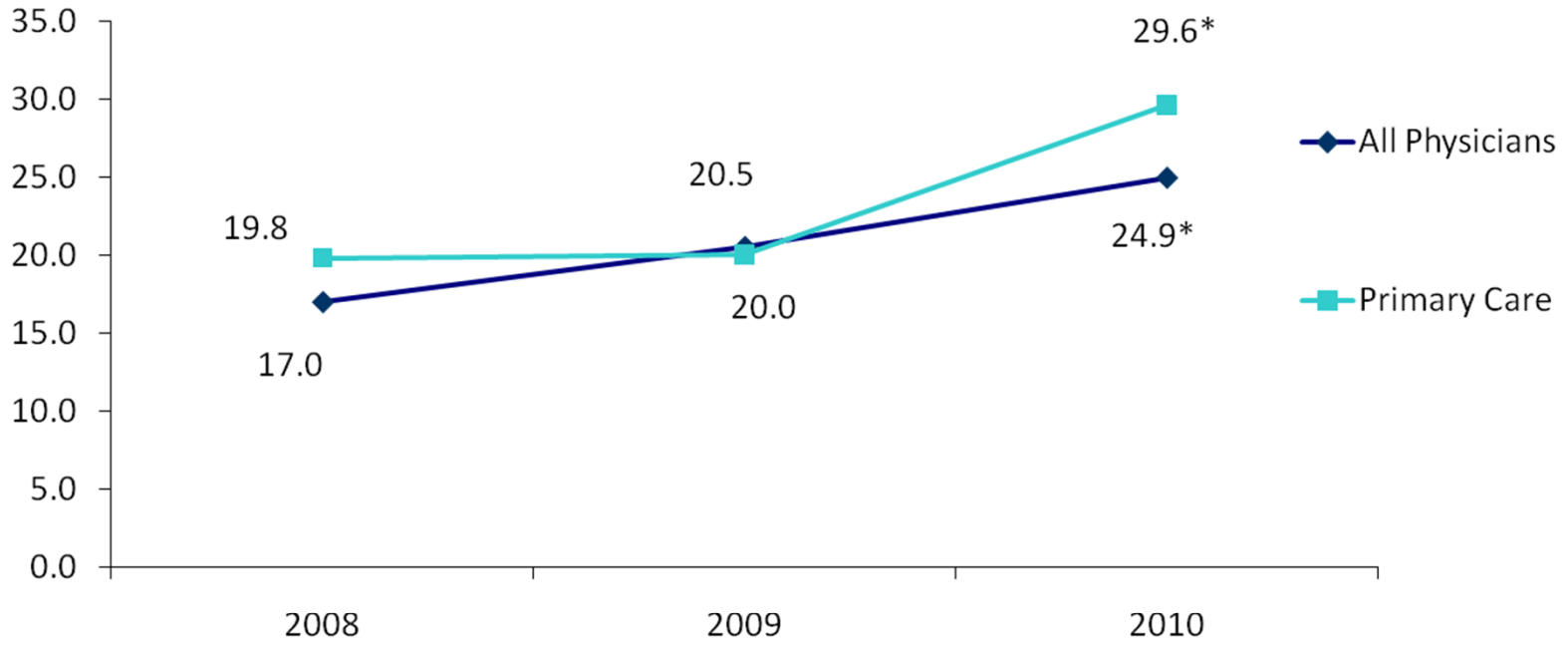
Today's Menu

- The National Health IT Agenda
  - Current state of health IT in the U.S.
  - The "HITECH" Act and Meaningful Use
  - The program in place to implement HITECH
  - A national "Learning Health System"

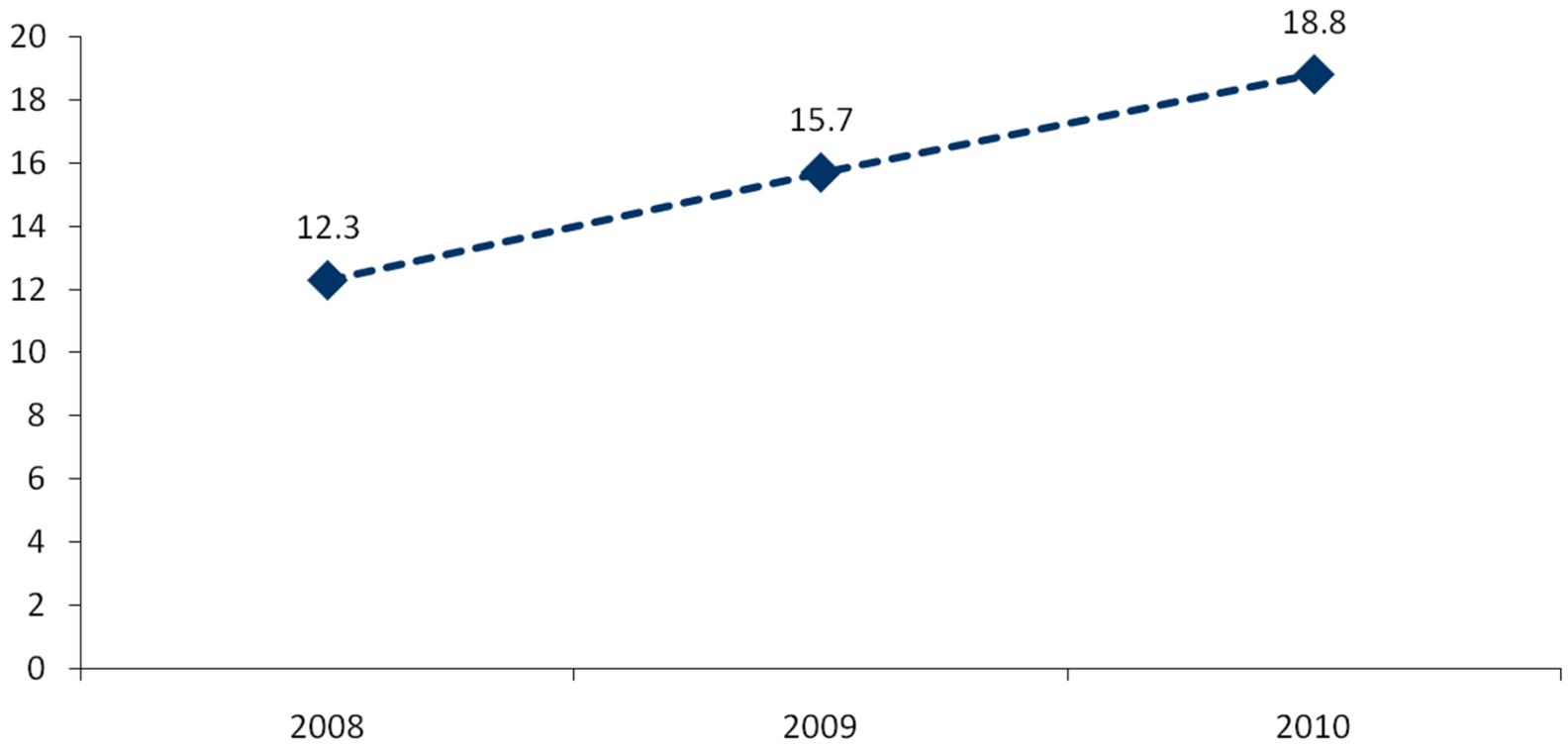
- Some implications for Health Librarians
  - Short and long term
  - The legacy of meaningful use
  - The HITECH "Informationist"

Adoption of "Basic" Electronic Health Records Among Office-based Physicians



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control, NAMC (National Ambulatory Medical Care) Survey (mail-only respondents), 2008-2010

Deployment of "Basic" EHRs in Non-Federal Acute Care Hospitals



Source: AHA Annual Information Technology Survey, 2008-2010. Adoption of the EHR is without physician notes and Nursing Assessments functionalities.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

TITLE XIII—HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 13001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS OF TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title (and title IV of division B) may be cited as the "Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act" or the "HITECH Act".

TITLE IV—MEDICARE AND MEDICAID HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; MISCELLANEOUS MEDICARE PROVISIONS

February 17, 2009

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology", $2,000,000,000, to carry out title XIII of this Act, to remain available until expended: *Pro-*

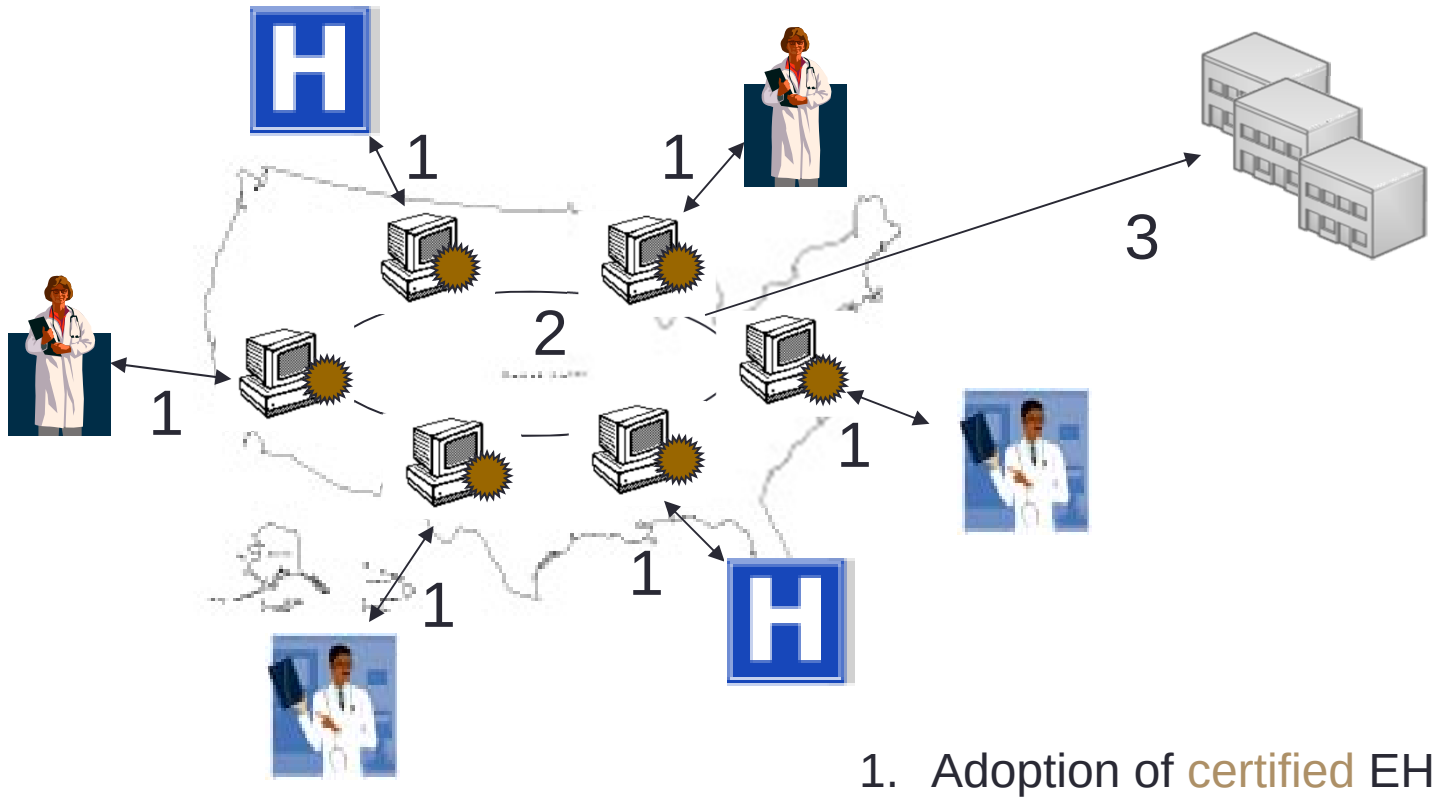
The HITECH Act in One Slide

1. Mechanisms for national coordination
   - Two federal advisory committees; authority to adopt standards, certification criteria, and implementation criteria
2. Payment incentives to providers and hospitals who achieve *meaningful use* of certified EHRs
   - Incentives begin 2011
   - MU to be defined by formal rulemaking
3. Supportive programs (grants and contracts)
   - Three mandatory grant programs; others discretionary
4. Enhanced privacy, security, and access provisions
   - Breach reporting, individual's right to their data in electronic form

Meaningful Use (MU)

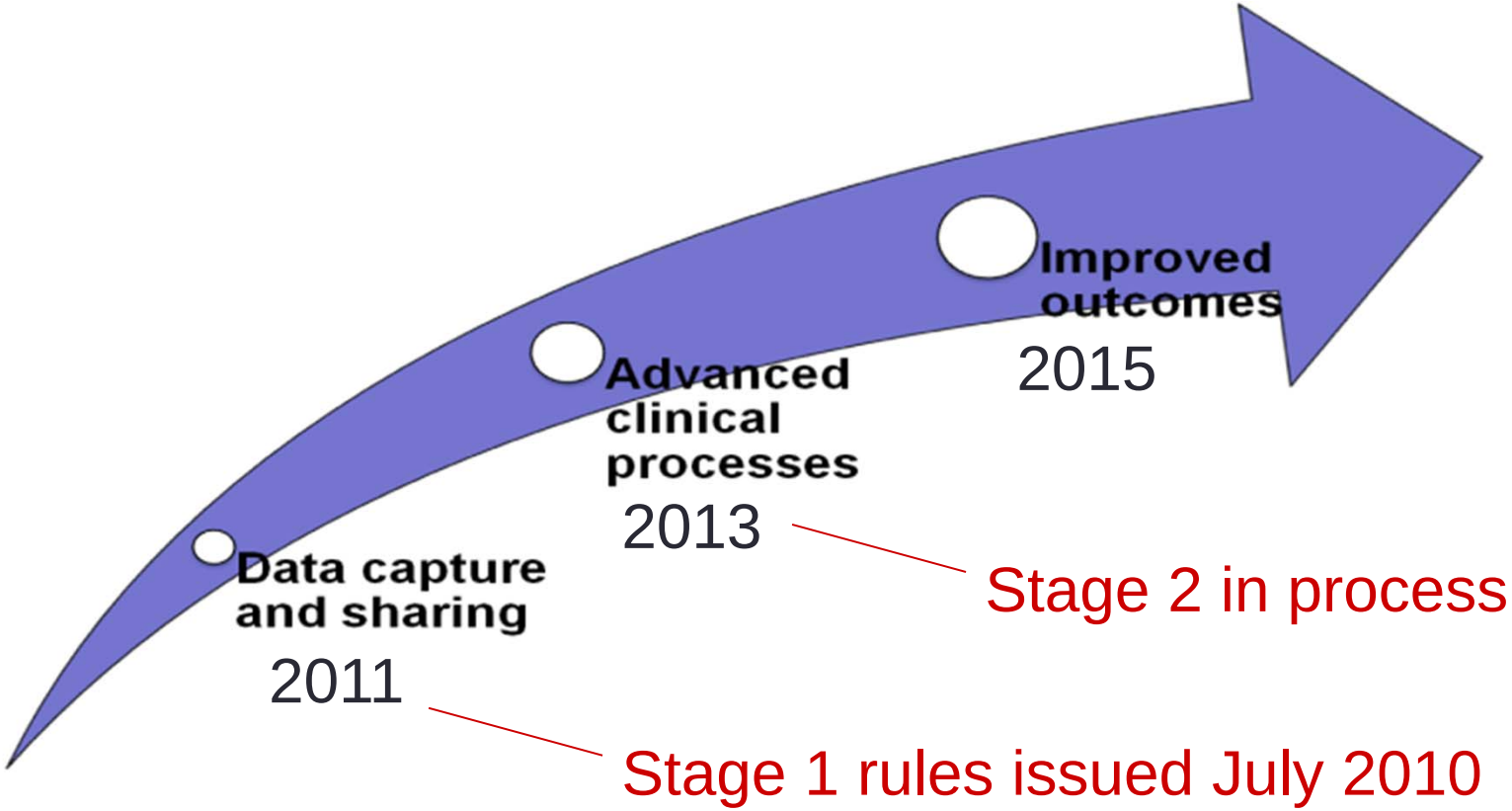
- Those uses of health IT that will improve the quality, efficiency, and safety of care
- HITECH requires that MU include:
  1. Adoption of certified (and qualified) EHR products
     - A qualified EHR can support CPOE and CDS
  2. Health information exchange
  3. Quality reporting

Meaningful Use in a Picture

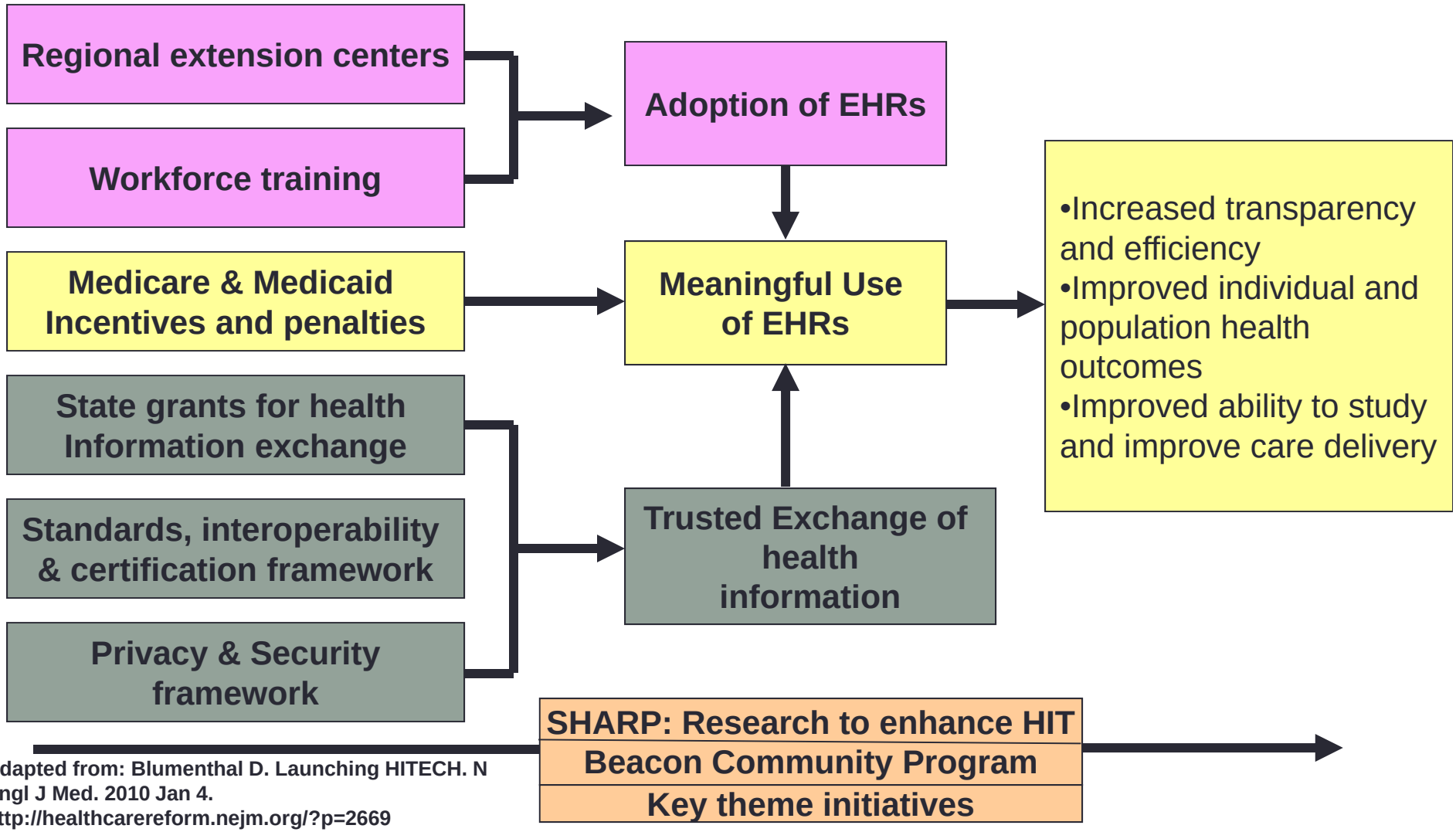


1. Adoption of certified EHRs
2. Trusted health information exchange
3. Unidirectional reporting

Escalation of "Meaningful Use" Criteria: In Pursuit of Transformation

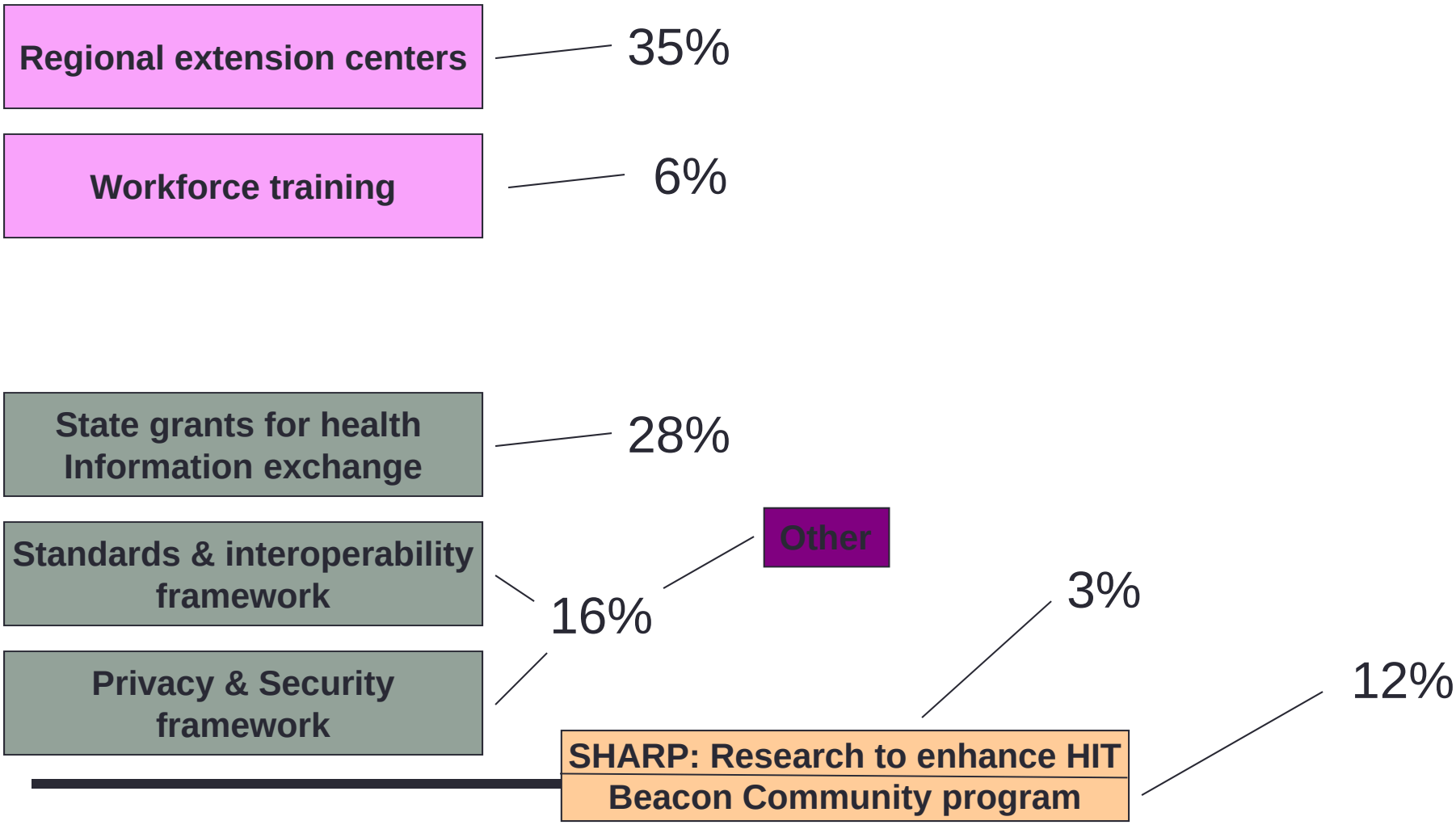


The Program to Achieve Meaningful Use



Adapted from: Blumenthal D. Launching HITECH. N Engl J Med. 2010 Jan 4. http://healthcarereform.nejm.org/?p=2669

Approximate Allocation of $2B HITECH Funds



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Regional Extension Centers

- "Boots on the Ground" support for providers to move from paper practice to meaningful use
- Modeled on agricultural extension center program
- 62 cooperative agreements, covering the nation
- Initially targeting priority practices
  - Small primary care
  - Underserved settings
  - Critical access hospitals

Workforce Development Program

Four *Integrated* programs ($118 Million)

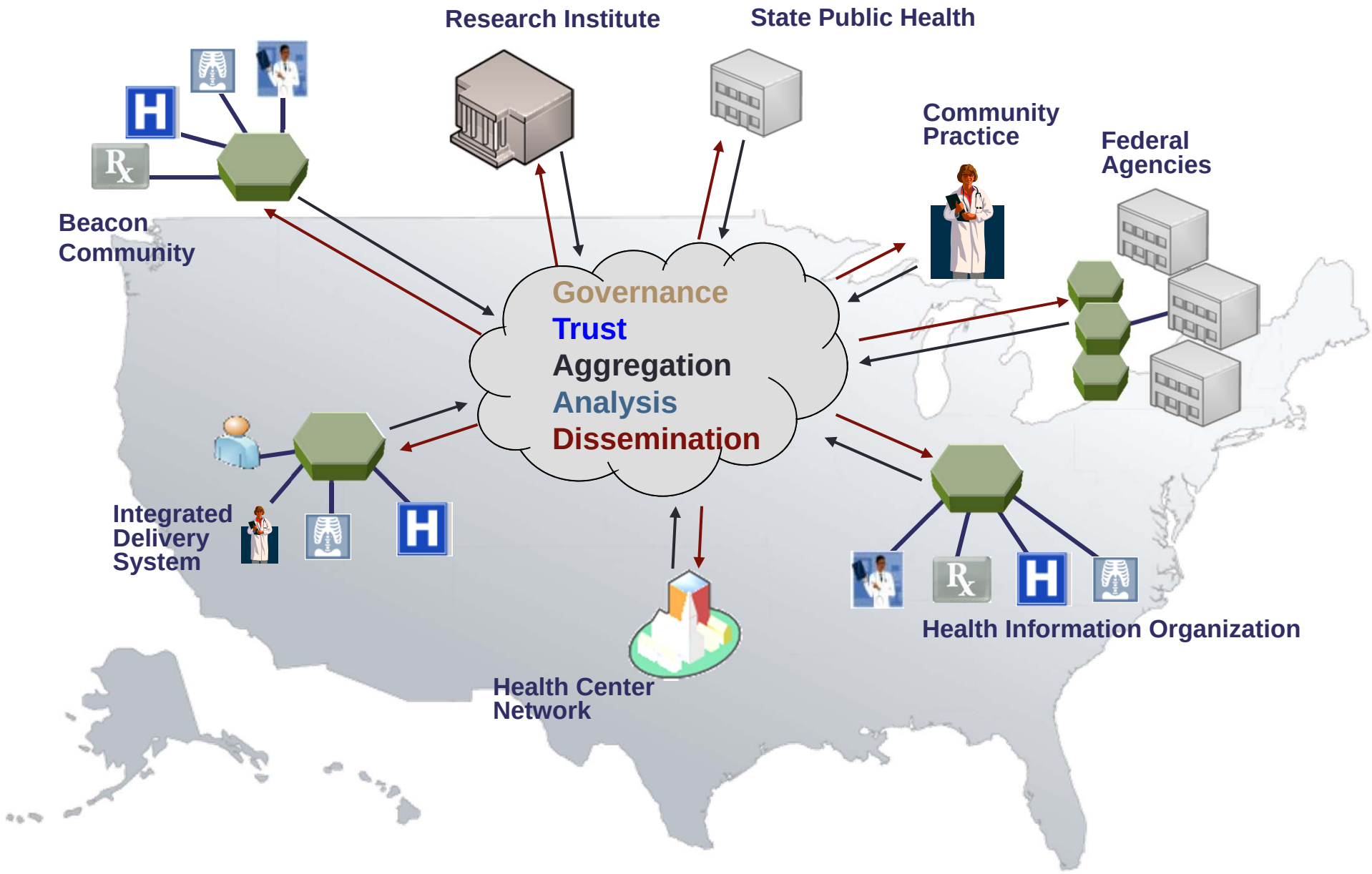
All grants awarded April 2, 2010

1. Community College Consortia to Educate Health IT Professionals
2. Curriculum Development Centers
3. Competency Examination for Individuals Completing Non-Degree Training
4. Assistance for University-Based Training

Workforce Program

- Community college program (82 colleges)
  - Target: 10,000 trainees per year
  - Enrolled as of May 1: 5863
  - Completed: 1274
  - Expected to complete by May 31: 2434
- Open-source Health IT curriculum
  - 20 components
  - Hands-on experience using VistA
- University-based training program (15 universities)
  - Program to support 1685 trainees over 3 years
  - First year enrollment: 640

Beyond MU: A Learning Health System



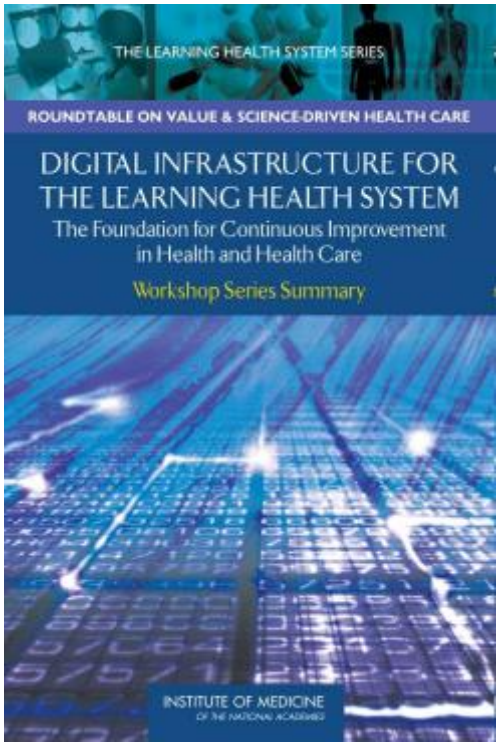
A Learning System Makes These Things Possible

"17 years to 17 months, or maybe 17 weeks or even 17 hours…"

- Nationwide post-market surveillance of a new drug quickly reveals that personalized dosage algorithms require modification. A modified decision support rule is created and is implemented in EHR systems.
- During an epidemic, new cases reported directly from EHRs. As the disease spreads into new areas, clinicians are alerted.

The IOM "Digital Infrastructure" Report

Digital Infrastructure for the Learning Health System: The Foundation for Continuous Improvement in Health and Health Care



"Health and health care are going digital. …Progress in computational science, information technology, and biomedical and health research methods have made it possible to foresee the emergence of a learning health system which enables both the seamless and efficient delivery of best care practices and the real-time generation and application of new knowledge."

(p. 1)

Available at: www.iom.edu/vsrt

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Critical Immediate Role for Librarians: Get Meaningful Use Right

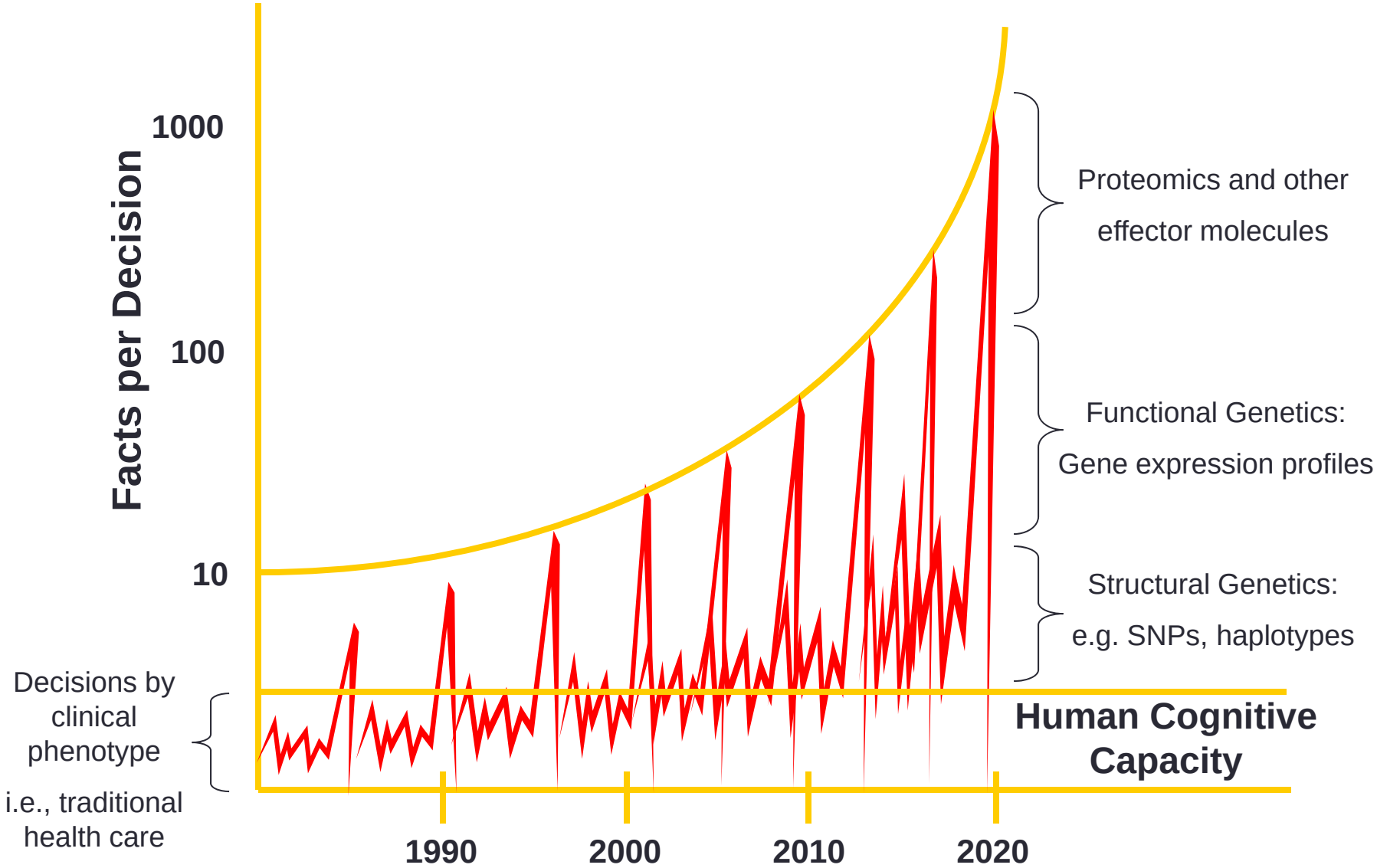
You can make Meaningful Use More Meaningful

- Meaningful Stage 1 is (almost) silent on:
  - Clinical decision support
  - Evidence based practice
- Stage 2 (2013-14) is not looking much stronger
- Roles for librarians:
  - Lobby for knowledge integration
  - Compensate for what's not there
    - Meaningful use is a floor

Longer Term: The Legacy of Meaningful Use

- Clinical data in digital and computable form
  - By 2019, most experts agree that 80% of care in the U.S. will be "paperless"
- A high level of (but not complete) standardization
- Serviceable privacy policies and security measures
- Ubiquitous data communication devices
- Consumer access to their own data
- Lots of consumer-facing apps that make use of this data

And Genomic Data and Decision Making…



Slide courtesy of Dan Masys

What Does This Mean?

- Health data and (purported) knowledge will be everywhere
- There will be too much of it
- Not all of it will be correct or valid
- Everyone will be accessing it
- The decisions people face will be more complex than ever (genomics)
- Focus will shift to making best use of information
- 400 million patrons by 2019!

Critical New Role: The HITECH Informationist

- Perhaps the original “informationist” concept had the right aim but missed the target
- In light of HITECH, the informationist’s clients should be consumers in addition to practitioners
- The answers may be there in the cloud, but it all starts with asking the right question.
- Who can help?

Thanks

- Write to me: cpfried@umich edu