

Suggested Projects: White House Innovation Fellows

10 - ER-Net/Blue Button and Fast Biometric ID for Vulnerable Populations

Concerning my earlier proposal for a national ER-Net project to accelerate adoption of Blue Button and its immediate benefits: It builds an even stronger package to have a Blue Button option for Fast Biometric ID, especially for vulnerable populations.

Among the heaviest, repeat users of the ER are people suffering from chronic mental illness, or alcoholism and drug abuse, especially as they age. Often they live a marginal existence and are brought to the ER in a confused state by the police. They also may have several existing medical conditions and, if they suffer from chronic mental illness and have stopped taking, or have forgotten to take, medications they may not know who or where they are. The police find them on the street in urban areas. They are a nightmare for ER physicians to treat if they cannot establish identity and obtain medical records. For these vulnerable patients, a Fast Biometric ID capacity ought to be part of a Blue Button option.

Perhaps a separate company should be custodian of this critical confidential information?

. . . I am not a specialist in what the USGOV knows about Fast Biometric ID (DoD contractors?). There should be strong humanitarian, medical, and economic support to have these patients - regardless of who is listed as a personal physician or health provider (sometimes, it is unclear) - in the Blue Button system quickly.

Lloyd S. Etheredge

June 10, 2012