

Suggested Projects: White House Innovation Fellows
8 - A national ER (Emergency Room) Net plus Blue Button

[Why don't you] market the Blue Button system - and get people really enrolled - by building a national ER (Emergency Room) -Net. If you have an electronic health record, and your health provider uses Blue Button, then you can click an option to link your confidential EHR records to a national ER (Emergency Room) Network. This means that, if you ever are admitted to an Emergency Room anywhere in the country - even if you are unconscious - your doctors will have immediate access to your Short Form EHR - with your medical history, your diagnosed conditions, what drugs you are taking, and the name of your personal physician.

We're spending \$27 - \$40 billion for a national EHR system. Isn't this a basic functionality that we should get quickly? And the ER-Net ought to be available in every Emergency Room in the country - regardless of which EHR system the hospital itself uses for its own records.

The President ought to announce this vision now as a national vision and promise. This is like having a national 911 system - it's basic common sense! As soon as people understand that they, and people that they care about, will have the ER-Net option as soon as their health provider gives them a Blue Button option, they will demand the Blue Button option!

The ER-Net might grow faster as a network of private companies who hold and guard confidential EHR data: We'll have to talk with people about the best way to bring it to life, pay for its services, and assure secure access from terminals in the nation's Emergency Rooms.

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