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**PUBLIC HEALTH DATA STANDARDS CONSORTIUM (PHDSC) RELEASES
NEW STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Towards Public Health Sector Transformation and Unity
Strategic Plan 2012-2014**

BALTIMORE, MD June 8, 2012 – The Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC) has released its 2012-14 Strategic Plan to direct the organization's activities over the next three years.

PHDSC envisions a transformation in the United States over the next decades from today's *disease-based model* to a *health-based model* of care committed to continuous learning from data generated in the course of practice, known as an integrated *learning health system*. PHDSC's vision is shared by a number of prestigious organizations, including the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics and the Institute of Medicine. Among the tenets of this shared vision are:

- Health promotion and disease prevention are a primary focus for every individual.
- Health and wellness are seen more holistically.
- All persons have access to care.
- The population's health is measured objectively.
- Privacy and security policies guide, support and facilitate data use and sharing.
- A digital infrastructure promotes healthy lifestyles and enables more efficient and effective care delivery.
- Health information is generated by a variety of reliable, secure, and reusable data sources.
- Operational work flows and information systems are fully aligned *within* Public Health and *among* Public Health, healthcare sectors, government agencies, and consumers.

Public health can be a *leader* in the migration to the health-based model/learning health system (HBM/LHS) and must *act* and *advocate* in a unified manner to enable this transformation.

To support this transformation, public health information systems must be better aligned with the practice of public health providing real-time quality data for public health decision-makers, practitioners and researchers. Health information technology (HIT) standards are the key to enable integration and interoperability of information systems in public health as well as with clinical and non-clinical data systems. PHDSC can represent public health in HIT standards development and deployment effort thus serving as a catalyst in the transformation to HBM/LHS.

To this effect, the Consortium's Strategic Plan laid out the following goals:

- Stimulate the migration of clinical/public health operations from a disease-based to HBM/LHS in partnership with like-minded stakeholders
- Facilitate alignment of information systems capabilities with public health business needs
- Enable interoperability of information systems within the healthcare-public health-population health enterprise

To achieve these goals, PHDSC has adopted three strategic initiatives to pursue between 2012-2014:

- **Unify Public Health in Support of a Health-based Model/Learning Health System:** Establish the foundation necessary to effectively exchange health information within the sector and enable public health to help lead the healthcare transformation
- **Unify Public Health Information Systems:** Align information systems to support information exchanges across all public health entities, as well as with other healthcare sectors, consumers, and other stakeholders
- **Align/Integrate Public Health with Other Sectors in Healthcare, Including Administrative Data Systems:** Facilitate efforts to create interoperable public health, clinical information and administrative data systems that support the integration of healthcare and public health enterprises.

The Strategic Plan provides the direction to develop specific annual tactical and operational plans for the next three years to facilitate healthcare transformation in the United States. We invite interested parties to join the Consortium to participate in these efforts.

Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC) is a national non-profit membership-based organization of federal, state and local health agencies; professional associations; academia; public and private sector organizations; international members; and individuals. ***The Consortium is committed to bringing a common voice from the public health community to the national efforts of standardization of health information for healthcare and population health.*** The Consortium ***promotes*** the electronic connectivity between public health and clinical care; ***represents*** public health interests and needs in standards development and harmonization efforts; ***represents*** public health interests and needs on issues of privacy, confidentiality and information security; ***identifies*** priorities for the new national standards for population health; and ***educates*** the public health community about standards and the health information technology community about public health. For more information about the Consortium, go to <http://www.phdsc.org>.