

The Office of the National Coordinator for  
Health Information Technology



# ONC Update

*Safeguarding Health Information: Building Assurance through HIPAA Security*  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual HIPAA Security Conference

September 2, 2015

Putting the **I** in Health **IT**  
[www.HealthIT.gov](http://www.HealthIT.gov)

1. Supporting improved Cyber and Security response:
  - Assessing Risks from “New” Technologies
  - Importance of Information Sharing
  - Security Best Practices Healthcare Can Adopt from Other Industries
    - ONC Free Resources
2. Identifying Health IT Standards to improve security and expand interoperability
  - Identity Proofing and Authentication
  - Bringing NIST Framework to life for small healthcare businesses

- New to healthcare, but not new technology
  - Mobile, cloud, APIs
  
- Reuse lessons learned & best practices from other industries
  
- Threat sharing—Threats not unique to health care

# Why Does Cyber Threat Information Sharing Matter?



- In an *interoperable, interconnected health system*, an intrusion in one system could allow intrusions in multiple other systems.
- *volume, timeliness, and quality*
- *Better information yields better prevention.*

# Information Sharing: Drivers and Mechanisms

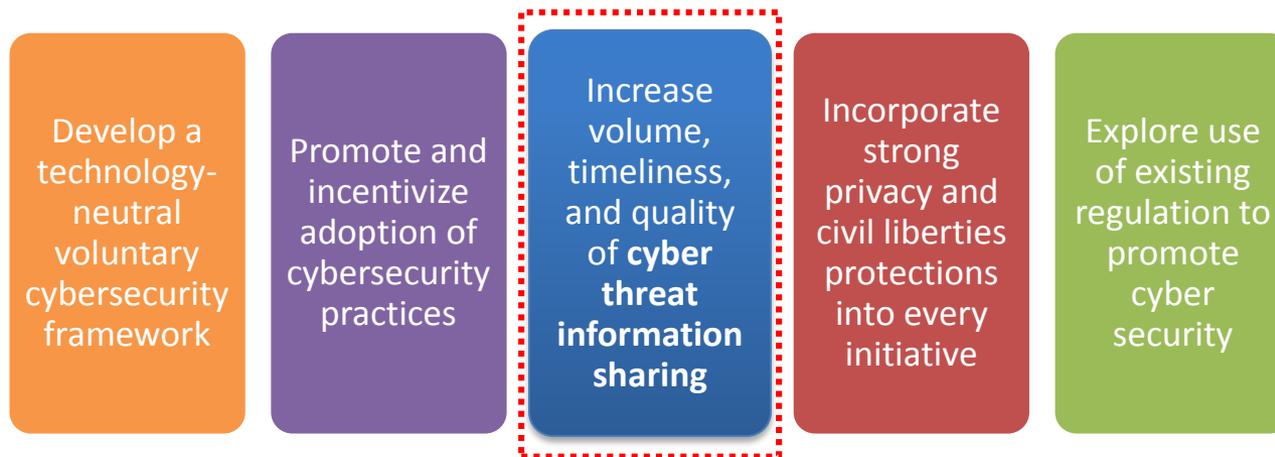
Recent Healthcare  
Data Breaches

Executive Orders  
and  
Administration Priority

Draft Nationwide  
Interoperability  
Roadmap

Draft Federal Health IT  
Strategic Plan

## EO 13636 directs the Executive Branch to:



Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/EOPPD%20Fact%20Sheet%202012March13.pdf>

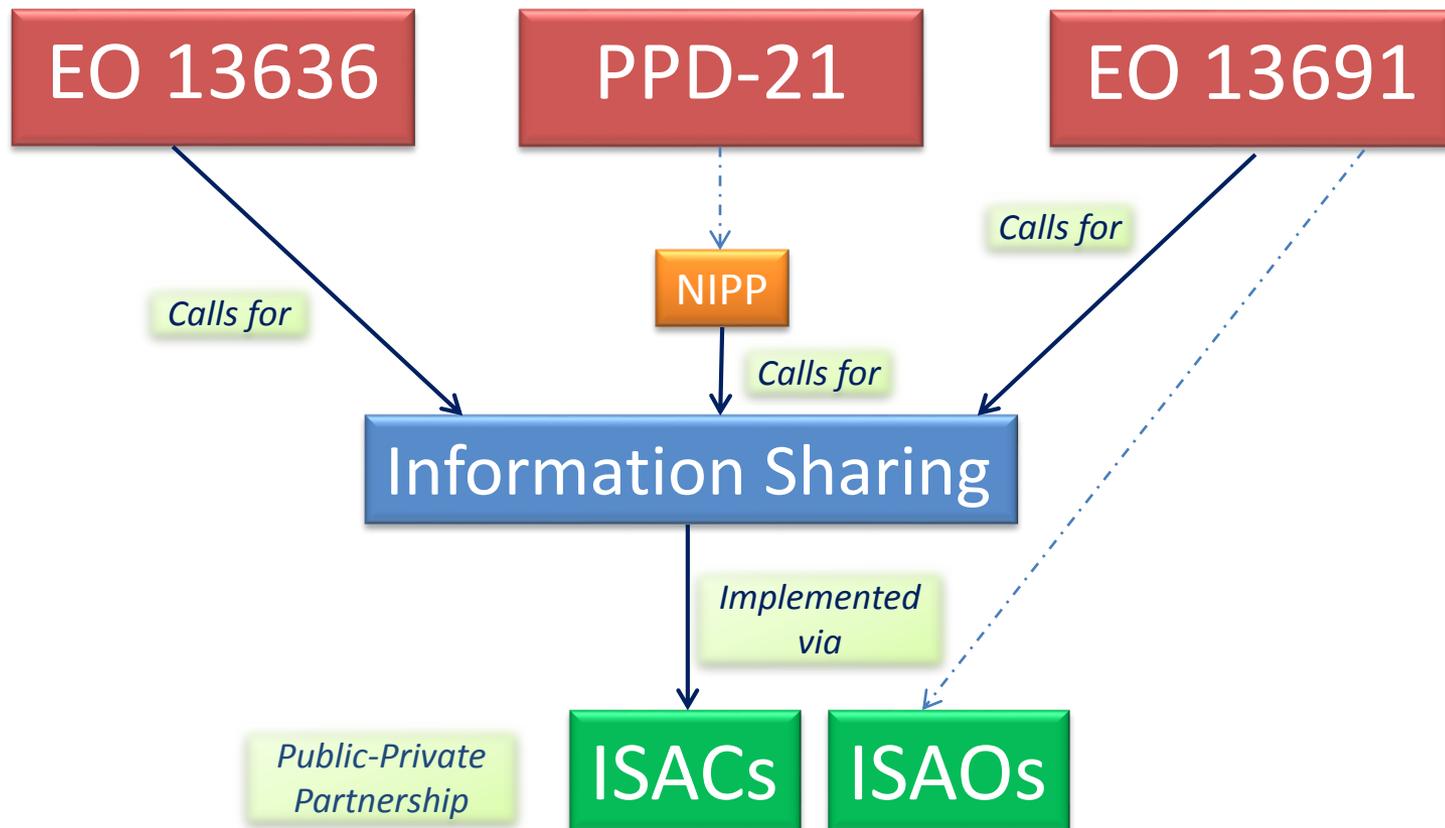
## EO 13691 Highlights



Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/12/fact-sheet-executive-order-promoting-private-sector-cybersecurity-inform>

# Policy Relationship Diagram

To protect critical infrastructure, the Executive Branch is directed to increase cyber threat information sharing and assigns HHS as the Sector-Specific Agency for the HPH Sector to enhance security and resilience with respect to all hazards, including cyber threats



## ➤ Data isolation

- E.g., Store demographic identifiers in a separate encrypted database

## ➤ Fraud detection

- E.g., operational monitoring

## ➤ Building Security In

- E.g., penetration testing

## ➤ Asses Risk and remediate it

## ➤ Security Risk Assessment Tool

<http://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/security-risk-assessment-tool>

## ➤ Guide to Privacy and Security of Electronic Health Information

<http://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/guide-privacy-and-security-electronic-health-information>

- See Chapter 6: pull out guide to health IT Security

## ➤ OCR's website

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/>

Coming soon . . .



- Best Privacy & Security Practices for mobile health developers—with OCR, FTC and others
- Privacy & Security Framework for PCOR
- Security Principles for Precision Medicine, supporting NIH

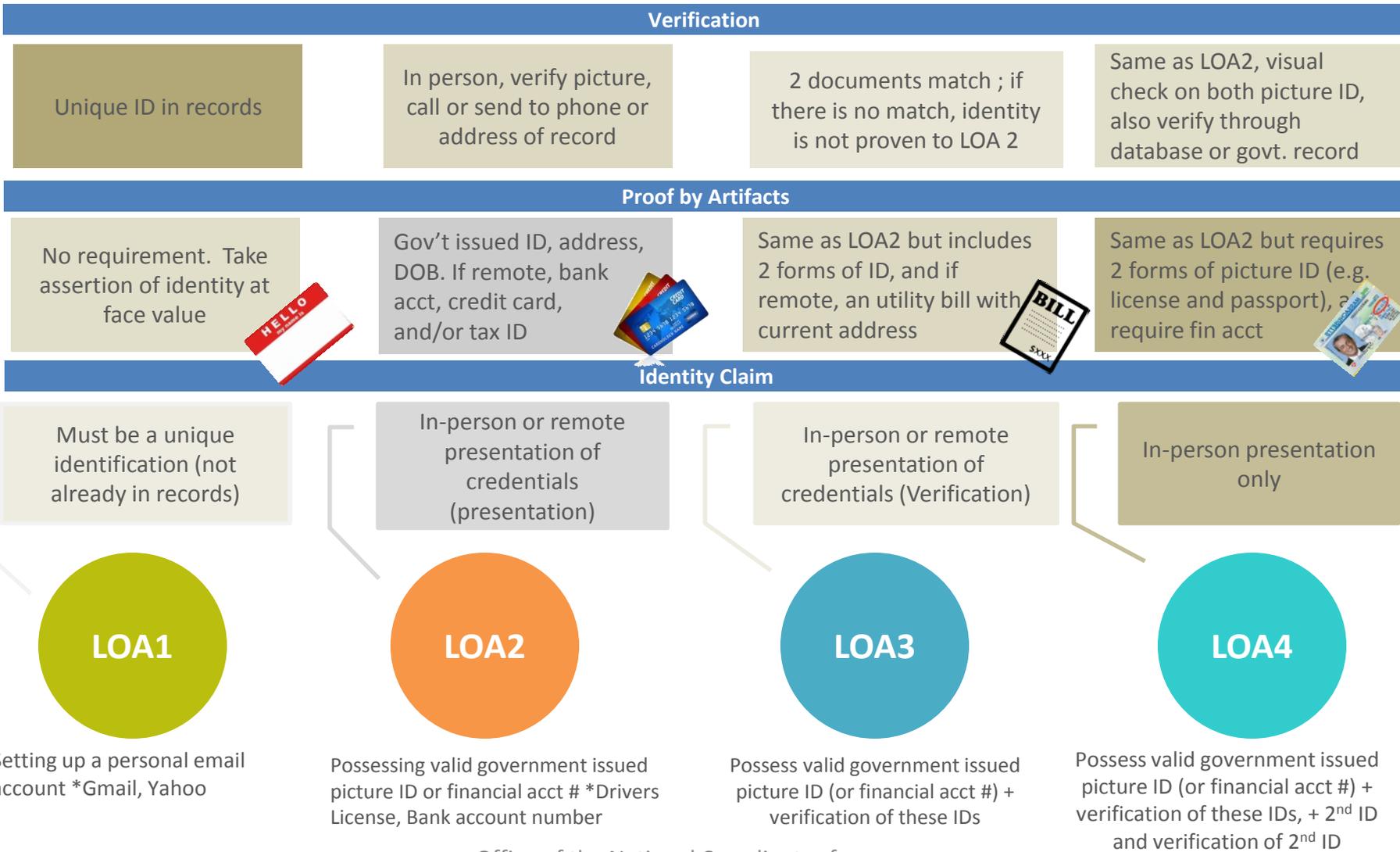
- We want to be confident that those who access systems are who they say they are, and should be accessing the system:
  - Need solutions users will use.
  - Build on best practices from other industries
  - Right-size the solution for the problem:
    - Individual access to their own PHI
    - Physician's office practice to patient panel data
    - IT System Administrator access to data from many practices.
- Avoid redundancy = rely on identity proofing others have confirmed.
  - Build on best practices from other industries
- Account for pervasive consumer use of smart phones.
  - Meet Consumers where they are.
  - Diverse Populations
- ONC is developing guidelines on patient and provider identity proofing and authentication using NIST Level of Assurance guidelines

# Interoperability Roadmap

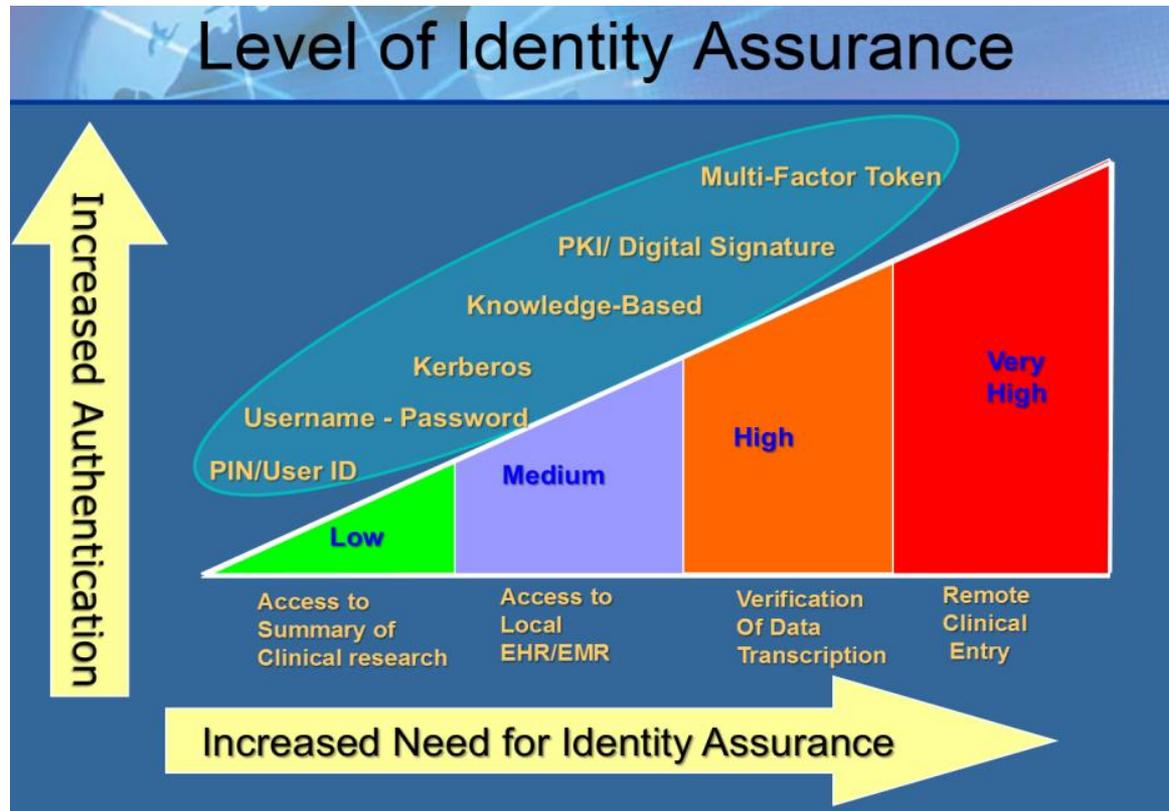
## Identity Management Key Issues

- The health care industry has not standardized its Level of Assurance requirements for Identity Proofing and Authentication
- The lack of consistently applied methods and criteria for both identity proofing and authentication has significantly hampered the exchange of data across organizations.
- The NIST document SP 800-63-2 provides technical guidance that includes the identity proofing process and all aspects of credential management based on the OMB M-040-04 weight scale
- The ONC HIT Policy Committee (HITPC) has put significant effort into recommendations to ONC for addressing both provider and patient identity proofing and authentication issues over the last three years
  - Example: Multi-factor authentication for remote access by providers
- A recent Executive Order also pushes for alignment with NSTIC.  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/10/17/executive-order-improving-security-consumer-financial-transactions>

# ID Proofing - NIST Electronic Authentication Guidelines 800-63-2



# Level of Identity Assurance



- Health Care has not adopted identity solutions already used in other sectors.
- Two organizations may adopted LOA levels that do not match for same role.
- Confusion
  - Is discloser liable for receiver's security failures?  
[https://www.healthit.gov/sites/faca/files/hitpc\\_roadmap\\_transmittal\\_letter\\_2015.pdf](https://www.healthit.gov/sites/faca/files/hitpc_roadmap_transmittal_letter_2015.pdf)
  - Do Security practices and standards change when new technologies take root (e.g. APIs)?
- Ensuring Identity Management *while* fostering patient engagement and self-care.

## Questions