



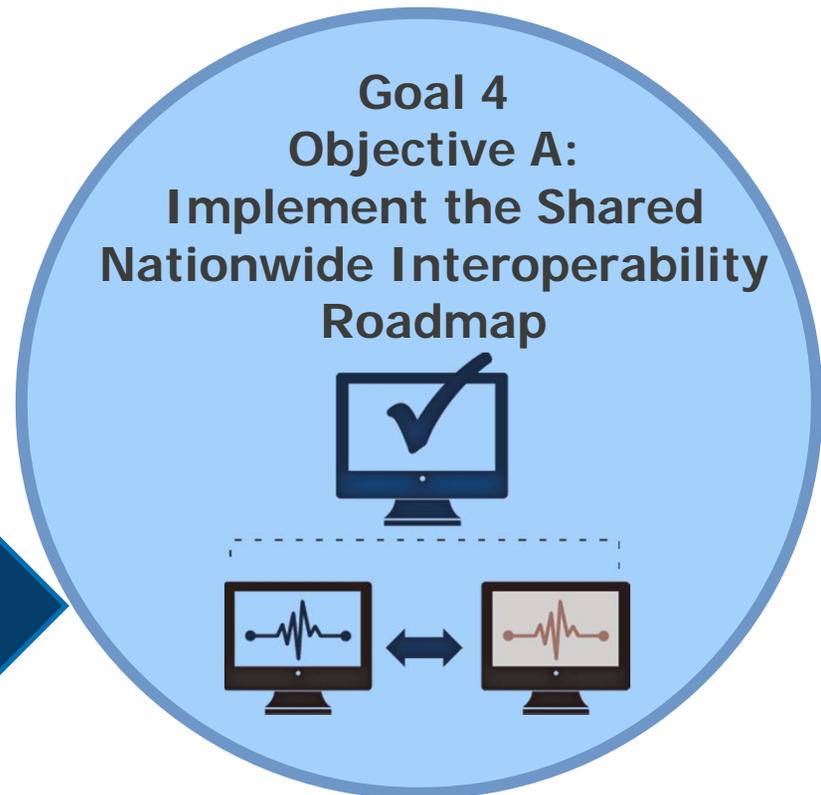
Connecting Health and Care for the Nation: A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap

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Big Picture: The Federal Health IT Strategic Plan & the Interoperability Vision for the Future

Federal Health IT Strategic Plan



Interoperability Defined

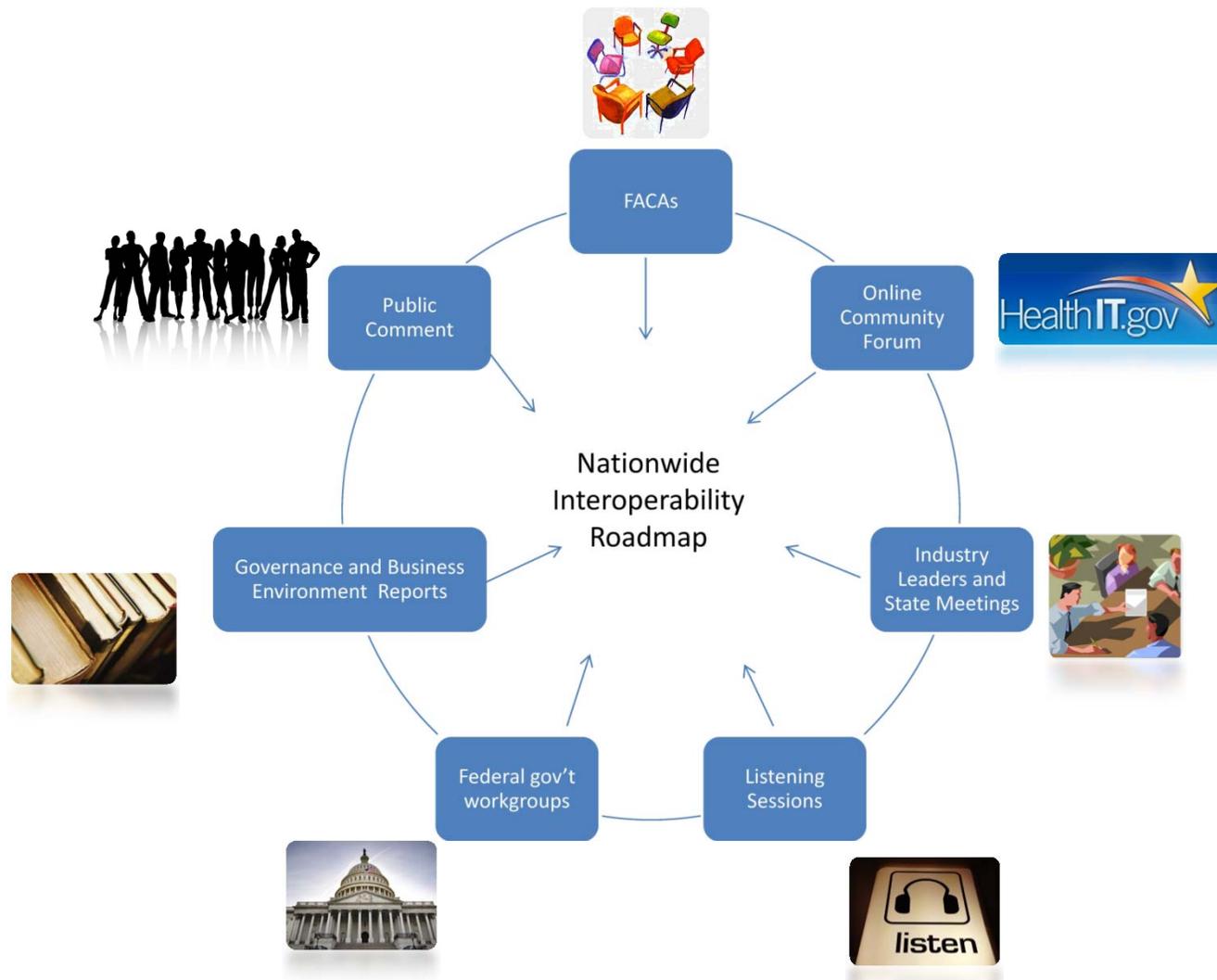
➤ IEEE as basis:

- The ability of a system to exchange electronic health information with and use electronic health information from other systems without special effort on the part of the user.

➤ Less jargon-y:

- All individuals, their families and health care providers should be able to **send, receive, find, and use** electronic health information in a manner that is **appropriate, secure, timely and reliable** to support the health and wellness of individuals through informed, shared decision-making.

Vehicles for Stakeholder Feedback



Overview of Feedback from Draft Roadmap

- General agreement on interoperability requirements set forth in the draft, even if some disagreement about details
 - » Recommendations to restructure the document
 - » Mixed feedback on governance approach
 - » Confusion about some privacy and security concepts, particularly related to permission/choice
 - » Desire for more clarity/detail on standards direction
 - » Call for unique health identifier

Principle-based Interoperability

1. Focus on value
2. Be person-centered
3. Protect Privacy and Security in all Aspects of Interoperability and Respect Individual Preferences
4. Build a Culture of Electronic Access and Use
5. Encourage Innovation and Competition
6. Building Upon Existing Health IT Infrastructure
7. One Size Does Not Fit All
8. Simplify
9. Maintain Modularity
10. Consider Current Environment and Support Multiple Levels of Advancement

1. Focus on Value

- Improved health, health care and lower costs should be measurable over time
- Interoperability efforts should yield the greatest value to individuals and care providers



2. Be Person-Centered

- Electronic health information easily accessible to individuals and empowers them to become active partners and participants in their health and care



3. Protect Privacy and Security in all Aspects of Interoperability and Respect Individual Preferences

- Ensure that appropriate, strong, and effective safeguards for electronic health information are in place as interoperability increases
- Support greater transparency for individuals regarding the business practices of entities that use their data



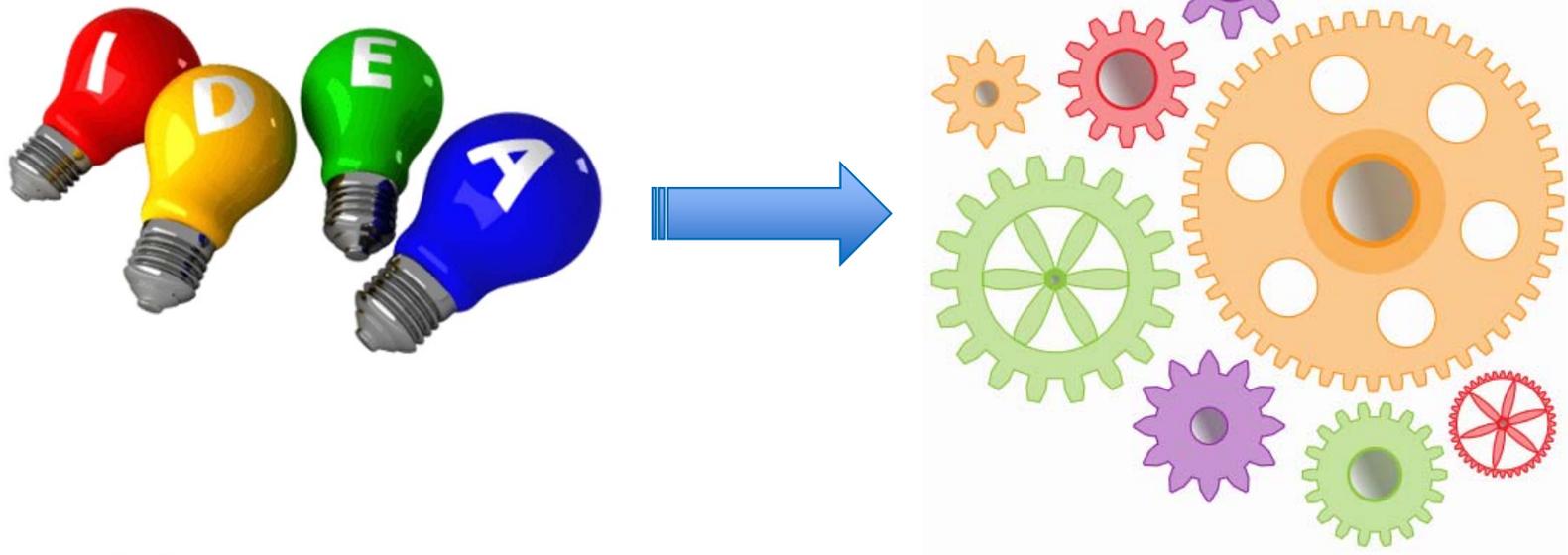
4. Build a Culture of Electronic Access and Use

- Interoperability standards and methods accessible nationwide and can handle growing volume of electronic health information



5. Encourage Innovation and Competition

- Market should encourage innovation to meet evolving demands for interoperability



6. Building Upon Existing Health IT Infrastructure

- Stakeholders should build from existing health IT infrastructure, increasing interoperability and functionality as needed



7. One Size Does Not Fit All

- Stakeholders to strive for baseline interoperability across health IT infrastructure, while encouraging innovation that improves usability



8. Simplify

- While more complex solutions may be necessary, simpler solutions should be implemented first
- Solutions should be built upon over time to move to more sophisticated services

9. Maintain Modularity

- A large, nationwide set of complex, scalable systems is more resilient to change when divided into independent components that can be connected
- Systems' abilities to evolve and take advantage of the best of technology and health care delivery must be preserved
- Modularity allows innovation and adoption of new, more efficient approaches over time

10. Consider Current Environment and Support Multiple Levels of Advancement

- Must account for a range of capabilities among information sources and information users
- Individuals and caregivers have an ongoing need to send, receive, find, and use their own health information both within and outside the care delivery system

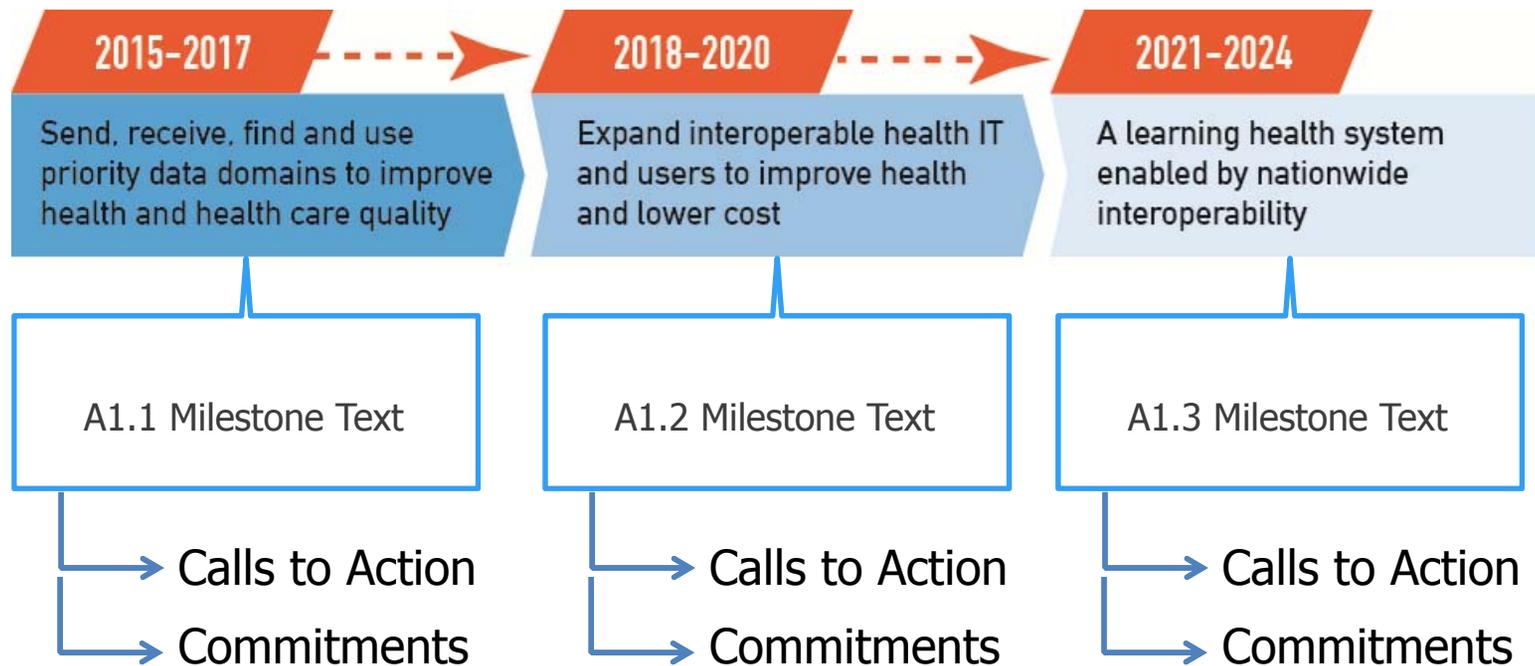


Overarching Goals

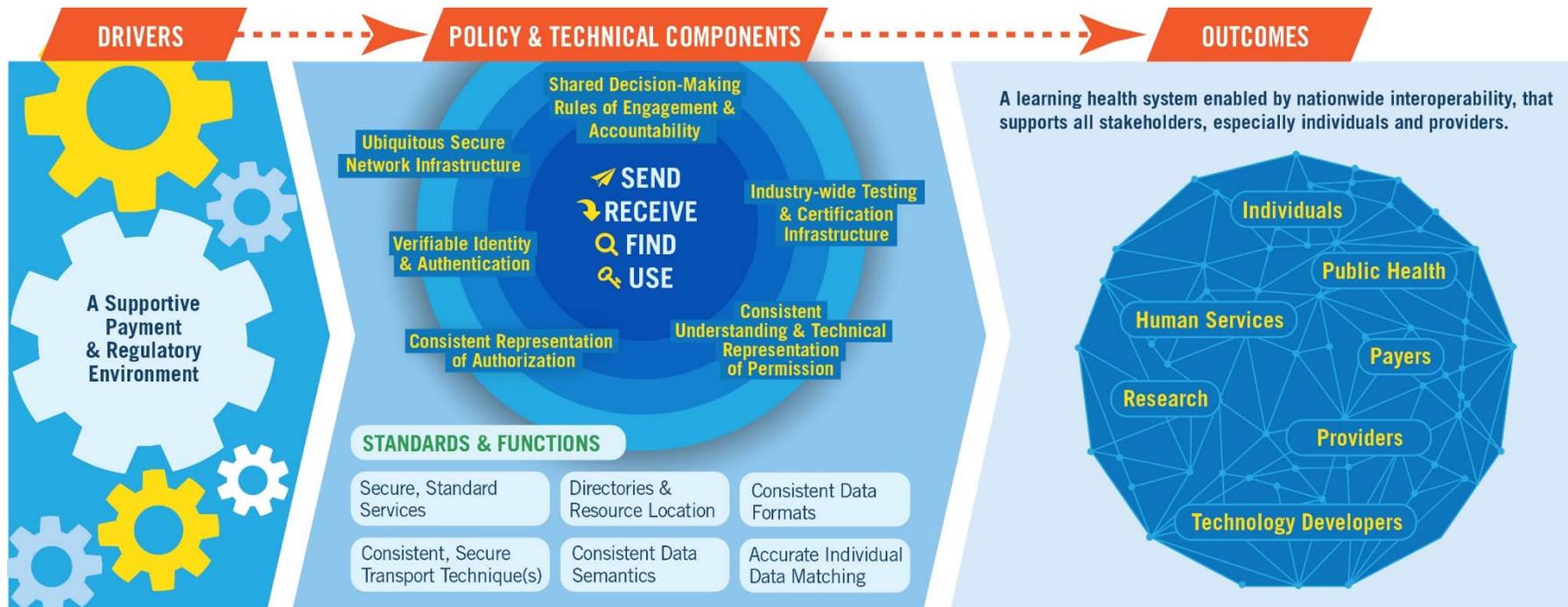
- 2015-2017:** Send, receive, find, and use priority data domains to improve health care quality and outcomes.
- 2018-2020:** Expand data sources and users in the interoperable health IT ecosystem to improve health and lower cost.
- 2021-2024:** Achieve nationwide interoperability to enable a learning health system, with the person at the center of a system that can continuously improve care, public health, and science through real-time data access.

How the Roadmap is Structured

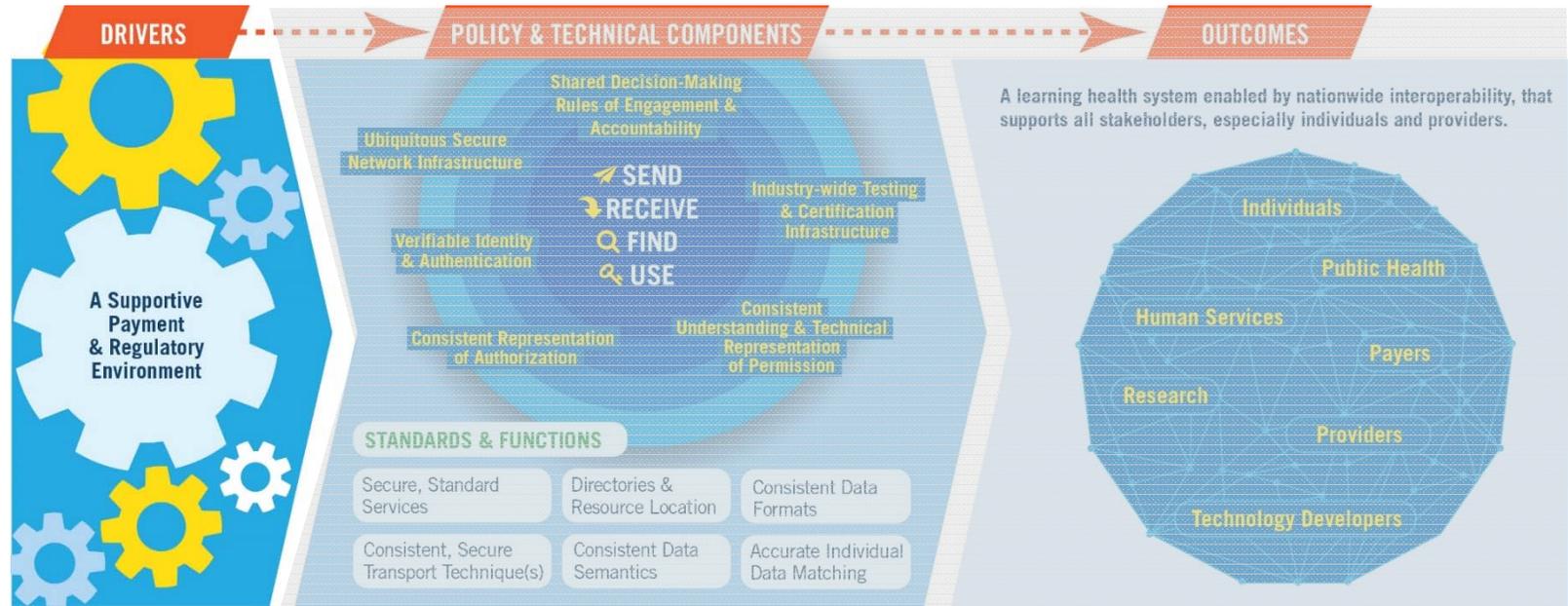
Milestones



Conceptual Organization of Final Roadmap

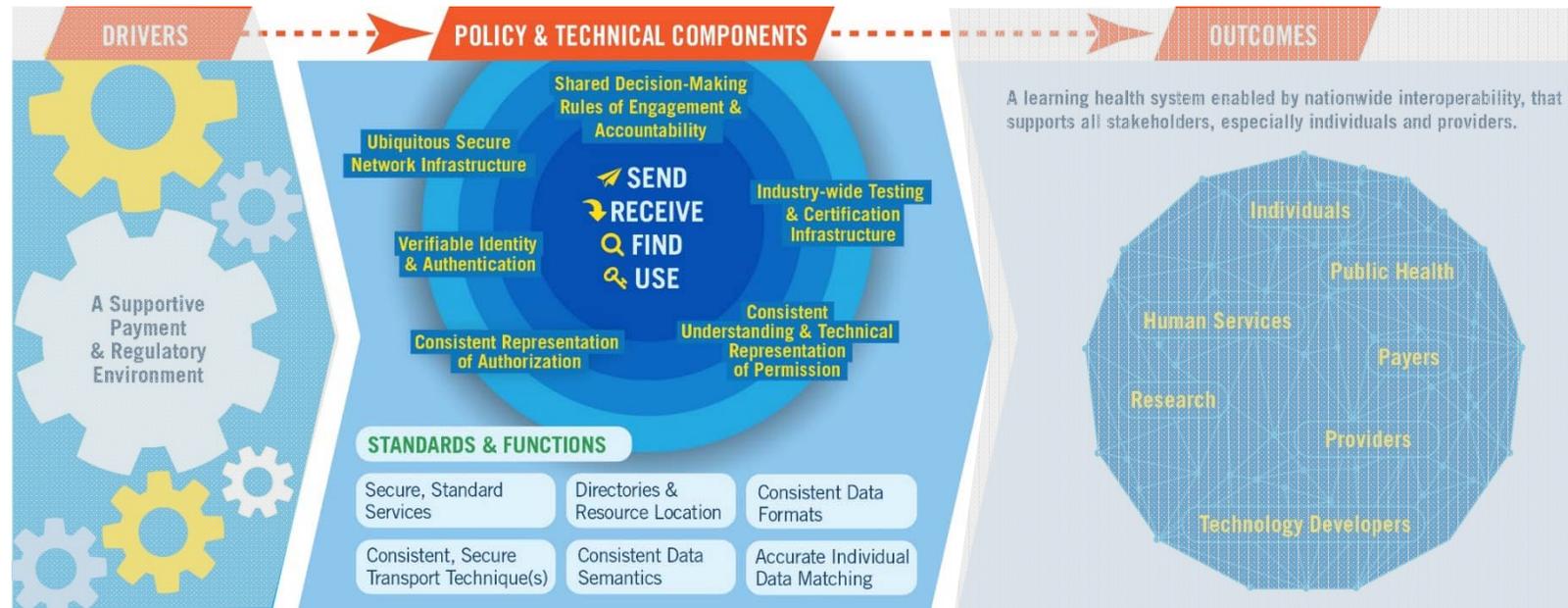


Drivers



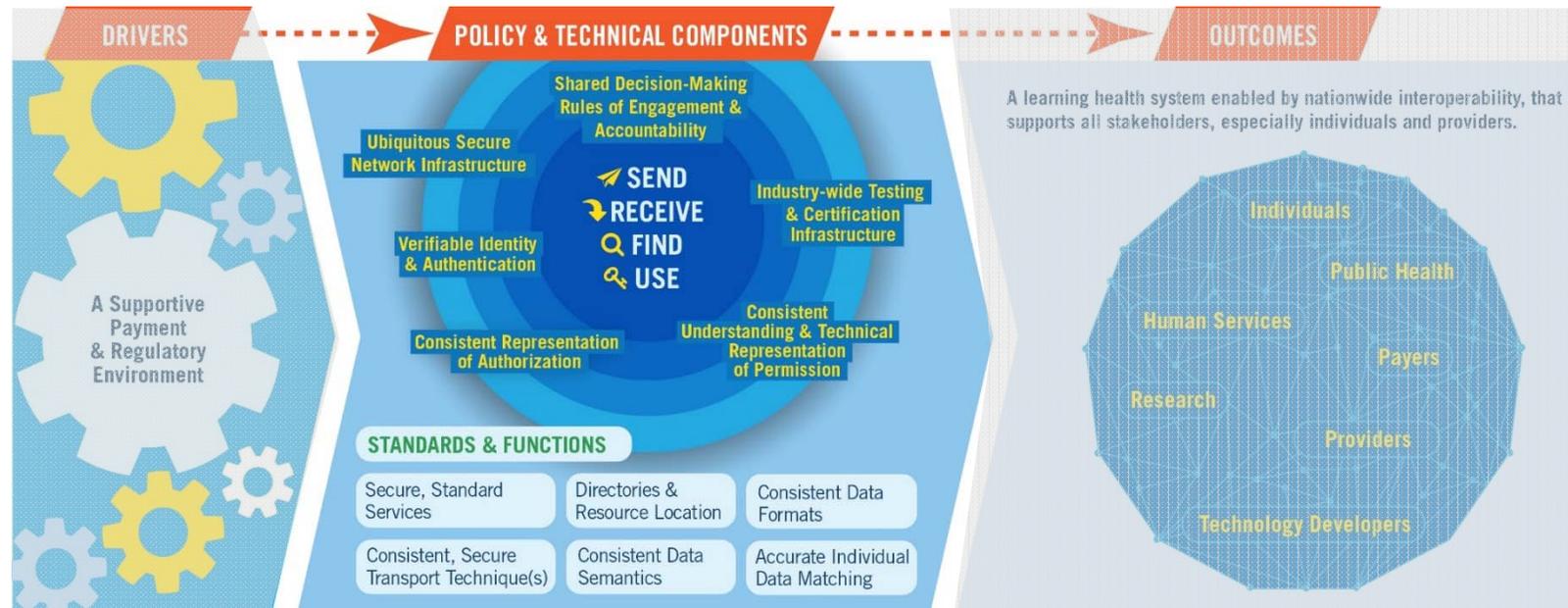
A. A Supportive Payment and Regulatory Environment

Policy and Technical Components (1)



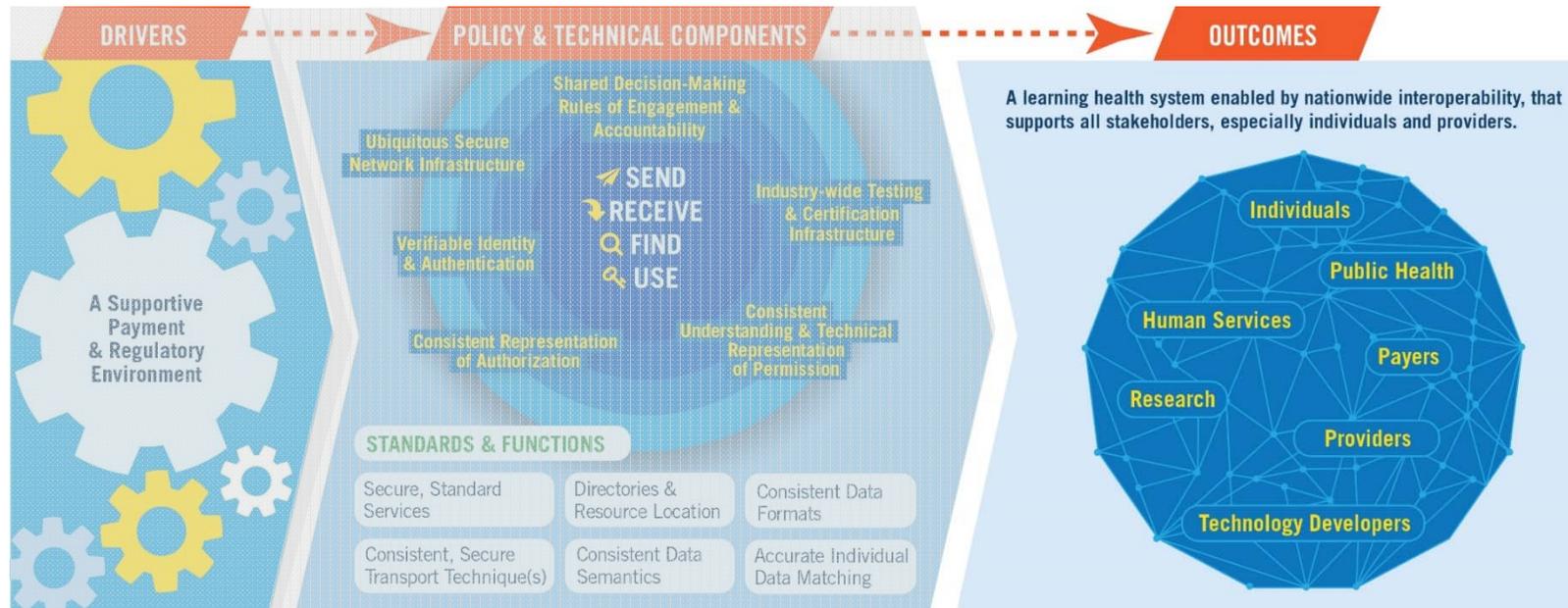
- B. Shared Decision-Making, Rules of Engagement and Accountability**
- C. Ubiquitous, Secure Network Infrastructure**
- D. Verifiable Identity and Authentication of All Participants**
- E. Consistent Representation of Authorization to Access Electronic Health Information**
- F. Consistent Understanding and Technical Representation of Permission to Collect, Share, and Use Identifiable Electronic Health Information**

Policy and Technical Components (2)



- G. An Industry-wide Testing and Certification Infrastructure
- H. Consistent Data Semantics
- I. Consistent Data Formats
- J. Secure, Standard Services
- K. Consistent, Secure Transport Techniques
- L. Accurate Individual Data Matching
- M. Health Care Directories and Resource Location

Outcomes



- N. Individuals Have Access to Longitudinal Electronic Health Information, Can Contribute to that Information, and Can Direct it to Any Electronic Location**
- O. Provider Workflows and Practices Include Consistent Sharing and Use of Patient Information from All Available and Relevant Sources**
- P. Tracking Progress and Measuring Success**

VA's Role in Facilitating Interoperability

- Shared commitments on the following key principles:
 - **Consumer Access**: Help consumers easily and securely access their electronic health information, direct it to any desired location, learn how their information can be shared and used, and be assured that this information will be effectively and safely used to benefit their health and that of their community.
 - **Information Blocking**: Allow providers to share individuals' health information for care with other providers and their patients whenever permitted by law, and not block electronic health information (defined as knowingly and unreasonably interfering with information sharing).
 - **Standards**: Implement federally recognized, national interoperability standards, policies, guidance, and practices for electronic health information, and adopt best practices including those related to privacy and security.

VA's Role in Facilitating Interoperability (2)

- Look first to ONC's most recent finalized Interoperability Standards Advisory when making decisions about standards that will be used to enable specific interoperability functions and use cases
- Include provisions related to health IT adoption and exchange in relevant initiatives
- Make access to seamless and secure patient data across the care continuum an expectation for VA providers
- Participate in forthcoming shared-decision making process to address operational issues related to standards, services, policies, and practices that enable interoperability

VA's Role in Facilitating Interoperability (3)

- Begin leveraging the Federal Identity, Credential, and Access Management (FICAM) Roadmap and Implementation Guide for identity management standards and best practices
- Ask VA providers to adopt and use Direct to enable broad scale ability to send and receive data elements associated with priority data domains commensurate with the organization's required LoA
- Align policies for interoperability with ONC's policy guidance (to be issued in 2016)



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