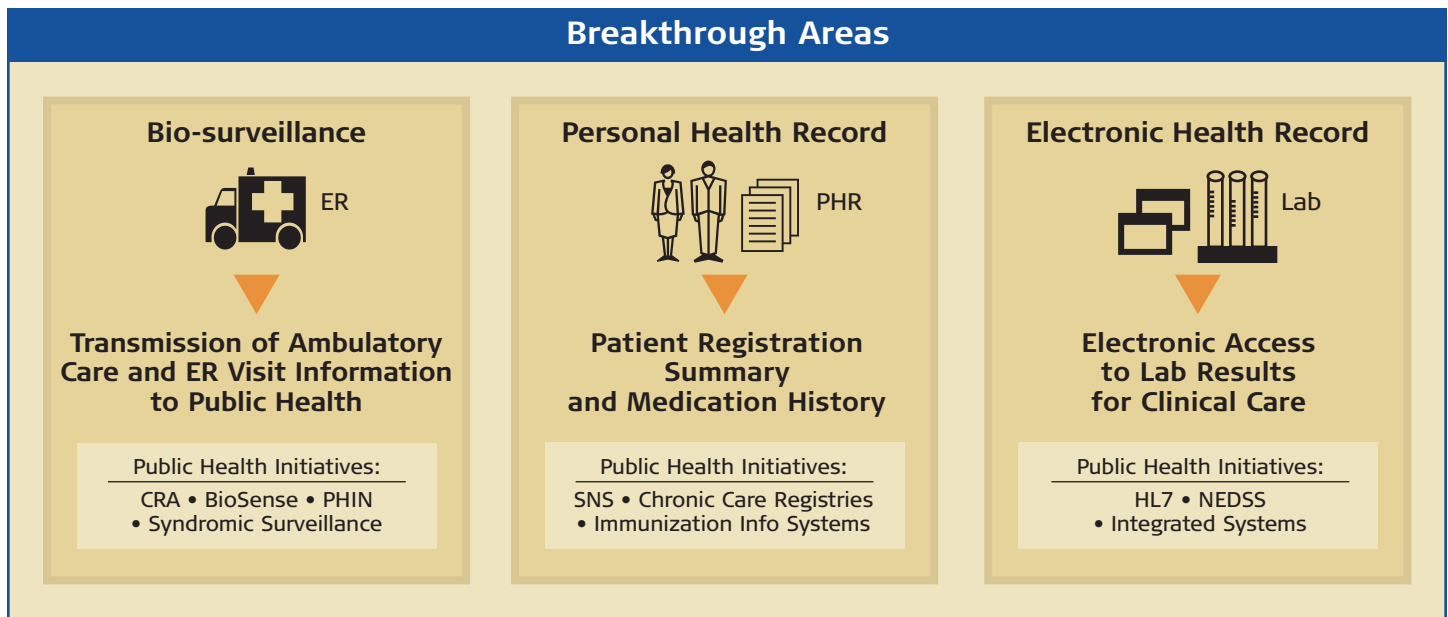


The Public Health-RHIO Dynamic

In September 2005, Health and Human Services launched the American Health Information Community ("The Community") to serve as a senior advisory committee to Secretary Mike Leavitt on the establishment of electronic health records for all Americans. In November 2005, the Community identified three "breakthrough areas"—bio-surveillance, personal health record, electronic health record—to guide progress over the next few years.



The three breakthrough areas were further refined (see diagram) and are well aligned with current public health information technology projects, including the Public Health Information Network (PHIN), bio-terrorism and emergency preparedness, and Countermeasure and Response Administration (CRA). Public health agencies should not miss the opportunity to get involved in health information technology (HIT)/Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) projects in their jurisdictions. Not only can these projects be leveraged to fulfill public health needs, but in many cases existing public health projects can be leveraged to fulfill the needs of the RHIO. Public health agencies bring essential experience to the table in coalition

building and governance, privacy and security, public-private partnerships, and person matching and de-duplication. In addition, public health projects (e.g., immunization registries, chronic care registries) can offer data to pre-populate RHIO systems. In return, RHIOs can provide public health with broader participation—especially by private providers—as well as additional data, funding, and standards for data sharing.

Join public health colleagues involved in developing HIT/RHIO standards by contacting:

- *Health Level 7* (www.hl7.org)
- *Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC)* (www.phdatastandards.info)



**A Collaborative
Approach to Health
Information Technology**

HLN Consulting, LLC provides a wide range of technology consulting services to healthcare. We focus especially on facilitating collaboration between the private and public health communities to support each other's missions. We design, develop, and support integrated public health systems with strong information exchange capabilities.

HLN is available to help in all aspects of RHIO conceptualization, planning, project management, and execution. Contact one of our specialists at info@hln.com to find out more information about how we can help *you* align public and private health IT initiatives in your area. Copyright ©2006 HLN Consulting, LLC

HLN Consulting, LLC
7072 Santa Fe Canyon Pl.
San Diego, CA 92129

Email: info@hln.com
Phone: 858-538-2220
Fax: 858-538-2209
<http://www.hln.com>