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# AHRQ: Health IT Research

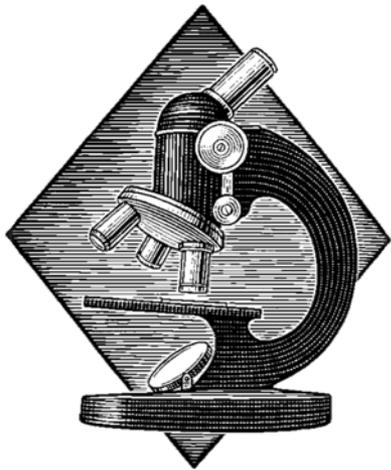
*Chris Dymek, Ed.D.*

*May 2, 2018*



# HHS Organizational Focus

**NIH**



Biomedical research to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease

**CDC**



Population health and the role of community-based interventions to improve health

**AHRQ**



Long-term and system-wide improvement of health care quality and effectiveness

# AHRQ's Mission

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To produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable, and to work within HHS and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used



# AHRQ's Health IT Program

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- **Produces and disseminates evidence about how health IT can make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable**
  - Established in 2004
  - Invested in research grants and contracts awarded to over 180 distinct institutions in 47 States and the District of Columbia
  - Currently has 114 active health IT research grants that represent a \$113M investment



# Producing Evidence: Why?

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- The effective delivery of health services is increasingly reliant on obtaining, using, and analyzing digitized information.
  - Peer-reviewed evidence is lacking.
  - AHRQ’s health IT program funds research to create actionable findings around “what and how health IT can work best” in care settings.

# Producing Evidence: How?

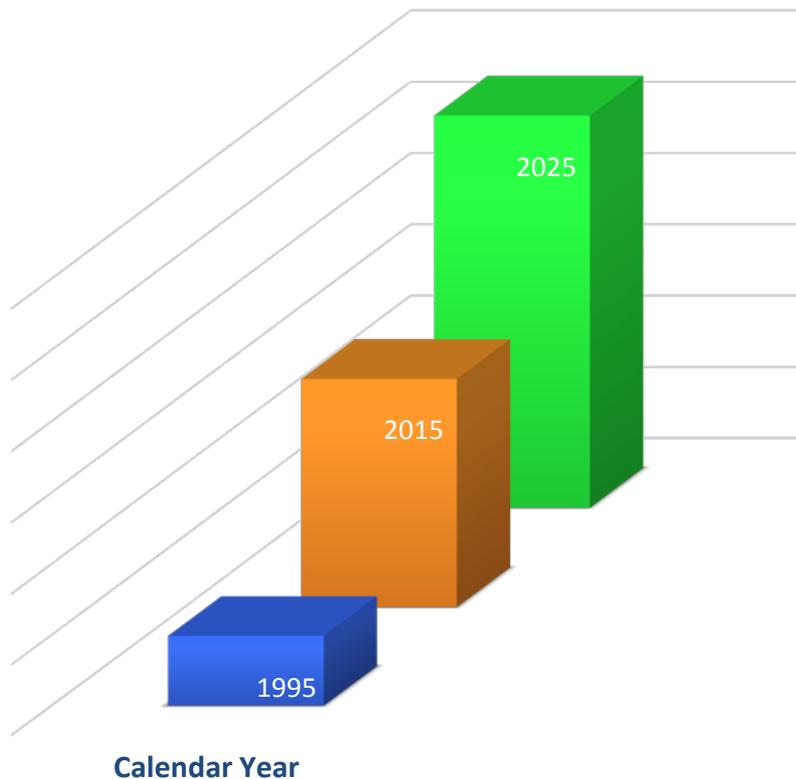
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- Primarily via investigator-initiated grants of the following types:
  - Exploratory/Developmental (R21)
  - Large Research Projects (R01)
  - Small Research Projects (R03)
  - Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects (R18)
  - Conference Research Grants (R13).
- In FY2016, we received 110 grant applications and in FY2017, we received 157 grant applications—a 42% increase over FY2016!
- Grant applications undergo peer review and are scored by a specific Health IT study section.
- We post [specific funding opportunities](#) in key areas of program interest.



# Can “Smart and Connected Health” Help?

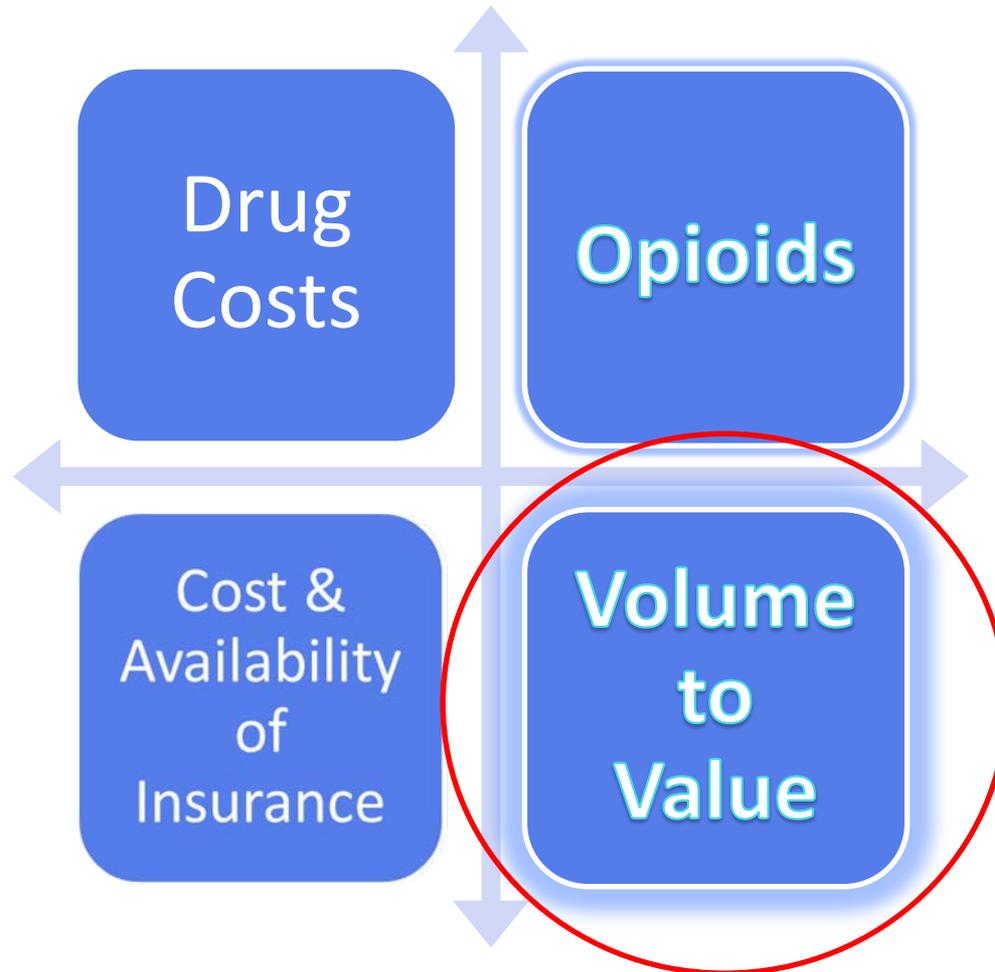
## Total Health Expenditures, United States



- 1995: \$988.5 billion
- 2015: \$3.2 trillion
- 2025: \$5.5 trillion



# HHS Priorities



# Clinical Decision Support Initiative (<http://cds.ahrq.gov>)

*Accelerating evidence into practice through CDS and moving CDS closer to becoming more shareable, health IT standards-based, and publicly-available*

Four main components:

1. Engaging a stakeholder community



Patient-Centered  
Clinical Decision Support  
Learning Network

2. Creating prototype infrastructure for sharing CDS and developing CDS



3. Advancing CDS through demonstration and dissemination research



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
Advancing Excellence in Health Care

4. Evaluating the overall initiative

# Patient-reported Outcomes (PROs)

- PCORTF-funded project
- R18
- U18

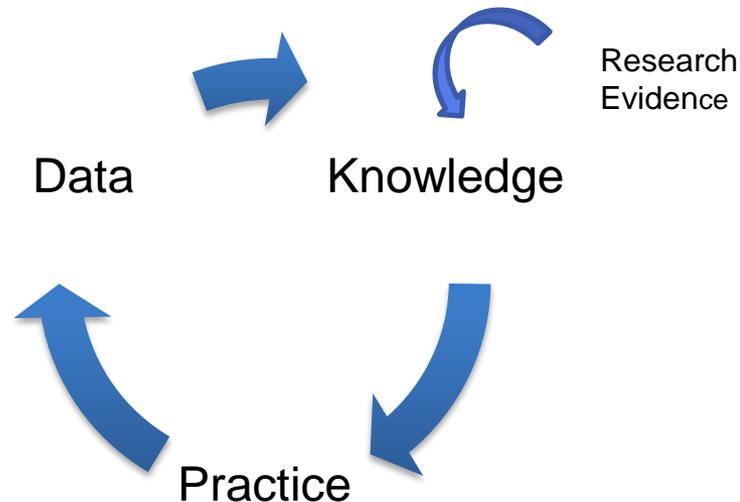
# PROs

- ✓ Health-related quality of life (HRQOL)
- ✓ Symptoms
- ✓ Function

# Learning Health Systems

- R21

- Applying data and evidence in innovative ways to facilitate population health management and patient-centered care delivery and coordination





# Special Emphasis Notice for Research on Health IT Safety

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- Encourages research applications on how health IT
  - Can improve patient safety and
  - Can be safely used and implemented
- Applies to range of funding mechanisms and opportunities



# The Building Blocks

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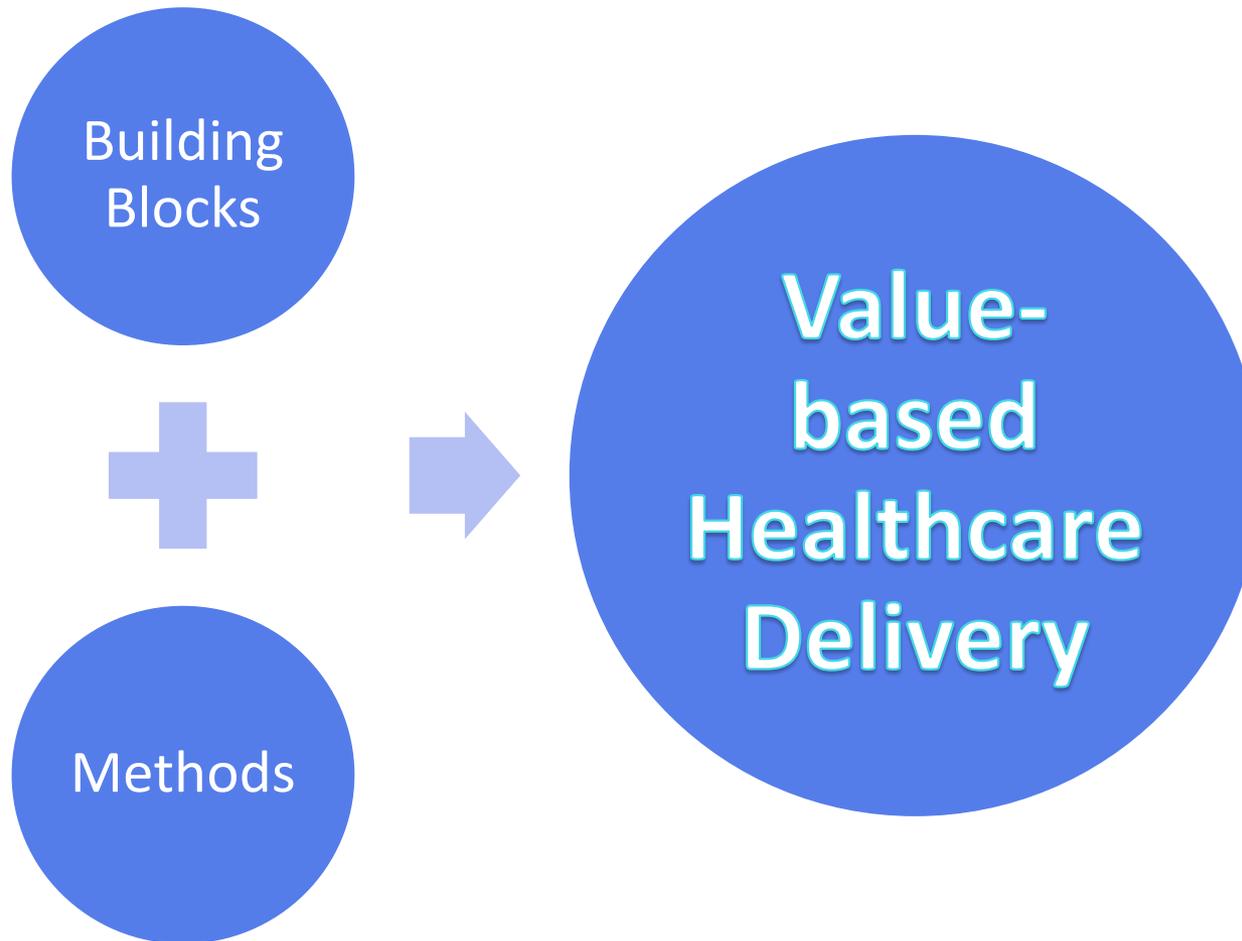


**Digitized,  
Interoperable  
Health Data &  
Knowledge  
Infrastructure**



# The Goal

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# Questions or Suggestions?

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