

Patient ID Week 2026: Getting Patient Matching Right Is a Patient Safety Imperative



Accurate patient matching is essential to patient safety, privacy, and a functioning, interoperable health system. Despite the acknowledgement of its importance, misidentification continues to drive preventable harm and unnecessary costs. During

Patient ID Week (May 11–15, 2026), the Patient ID Now Coalition is urging Congress to support H.R. 2002, the Patient Matching and Transparency in Certified Health IT (MATCH IT) Act, a bipartisan solution that improves patient safety and privacy through improved standards to fix the patient misidentification problem.

When patient records are not accurately matched, patients face duplicative tests, delayed diagnoses, medication errors, and increased costs. Meanwhile, inaccurate records force clinicians to make decisions without a complete clinical picture, health systems absorb unnecessary administrative burden and increased cost, and patients are at a greater risk for medical errors.

Patient misidentification levies an unneeded cost burden on healthcare in the form of:

- An average of nearly \$2,000 added per inpatient stay;
- More than \$1,700 added per emergency department visit; and
- 35% of denied claims linked to inaccurate patient information, costing hospitals millions annually.

These are not minor inefficiencies or inconveniences. They are symptoms of systemic failures that directly undermine patient safety, privacy, and trust.

Patient Matching Is Foundational to Interoperability

For years, the healthcare community has worked toward nationwide interoperability to ensure that health information follows patients wherever they receive care, but interoperability cannot succeed without reliable patient matching. Every referral, care transition, and data exchange depends on one critical question: Are we looking at the complete record of the correct patient? Without consistent standards and transparency governing how patient matching works, interoperability efforts fall short, and the promise of connected, patient-centered care remains unrealized.

A Bipartisan Path Forward: The MATCH IT Act

The [MATCH IT Act](#) works to improve patient matching by:

- Defining the term “patient match rate;”

- Creating a minimum demographic data set to be included in all certified health IT products, and standardizing the way those demographic elements are entered into patient records;
- And providing mechanisms to begin measuring where patient match rates are within the healthcare ecosystem.

The MATCH IT Act builds upon programs and systems already in place to ensure no additional administrative burden, while improving standards and definitions to increase patient safety and privacy.

Take Action

This Patient ID Week, we invite healthcare leaders, patient advocates, and stakeholders across the healthcare system to:

- Raise awareness of the real-world consequences of patient misidentification;
- Share why accurate patient matching matters; and
- Urge support for H.R. 2002, the MATCH IT Act.

Together, we can reduce preventable harm, protect patient privacy, and ensure patients are accurately connected to their health information every time.

 **Learn more and take action by writing to your members of Congress in support of the MATCH IT Act at patientidnow.org. #PatientIDNow**