Free Webinar

# The MATCH IT Act: Charting a Path to Accurate Patient Matching

**LIVE EVENT** | July 8, 2025 | Noon CT

PATIENT ID NOW

# How Did We Get Here?

- There is currently no national strategy in the U.S. on patient identification and matching.
- For more than two decades, progress around patient identification and matching has been hampered by **Section 510**, a section in the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill within the federal budget.
- Section 510 states that: **“None of the funds…may be used to promulgate or adopt any final standard…providing for, or providing for the assignment of, a unique health identifier for an individual.”**
- Narrow interpretation of this language by HHS has led to the failure to institute a nationwide patient identification strategy.
- In the years since, the full implementation of HIPAA, increased use of electronic health records (EHRs), and push for interoperability has developed a healthcare system that requires a broader strategy to address patient identification and matching issues.

# Patient ID Now coalition: Founded in 2020

- The coalition was founded with the aim of removing Section 510 from the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, and to support a national strategy to address patient identification and matching.
- The coalition currently has more than 50 healthcare organizations representing patients, providers, health IT, and public health. Our full list of members can be found at patientidnow.org.

# Coalition's Two-Track Strategy

- In 2023, the Patient ID Now coalition began a two-track strategy to improve patient matching:
  - Continued advocacy to repeal the ban on a unique patient identifier in the federal budget
  - A legislative strategy to improve patient matching without touching a unique patient identifier

# Recent progress from coalition

- **Fiscal Year 2025**
  - Section 510 remained in the federal budget.
  - Letters to the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee urging repeal of Section 510 in the FY25 Labor-HHS appropriations bills signed by 154 organizations, the most to date.
  - MATCH IT Act reintroduced in House in March.
- **Fiscal Year 2024**
  - Section 510 remained in the federal budget but $3 million was included for ONC to work on patient matching.
  - MATCH IT Act introduced in House in Feb.
- **Fiscal Year 2023**
  - House Appropriations Committee did not include Section 510 in its Labor-HHS bill and included $5 million for patient matching efforts at ONC.
  - Senate Democrats did not include Section 510 in their released draft bill.
  - Final federal budget kept Section 510 in and did not include funding for patient matching at ONC.

# HR 2002: The MATCH IT Act

**The MATCH IT Act will improve patient matching requiring HHS to:**

1. **DEFINE A PATIENT MATCH RATE**: Under this legislation, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will work with providers, health IT vendors, and other relevant industry stakeholders to define and standardize the term "patient match rate" to improve accounting of duplicate records, overlaid records, instances of multiple matches found, and mismatch rates within a healthcare organization. It will also allow the tracking of patient match rates across organizations and foster process improvement across the industry over time.

2. **ESTABLISH AN INDUSTRY STANDARD DATA SET TO IMPROVE PATIENT MATCHING**: Instructs the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ASTP/ONC) to work with stakeholders to define and adopt a minimum data set needed to reach a 99.9 percent patient match rate. This does not require any entity to reach a 99.9 percent match rate, but rather instructs ASTP/ONC to consider which demographic elements should be available to reach a 99.9 percent match rate if possible.

Once ASTP/ONC has defined the minimum demographic data set, ASTP/ONC is instructed to create, update, or adopt data standards (including an established industry standard, if available) to ensure demographic elements are entered in a standardized format.

# HR 2002: The MATCH IT Act

**The MATCH IT Act will improve patient matching by requiring HHS to:**

**3**. **UPDATE HEALTH IT CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**: Updates the ASTP/ONC Health IT Certification Program requirements to include the minimum data set referenced above within certified health IT products.

**4. PROMOTING INTEROPERABILITY REQUIREMENTS**: Requires CMS to include a voluntary attestation within the CMS Promoting Interoperability Program for eligible providers who meet an accurate match rate of 90 percent. Eligible hospitals, critical access hospitals (CAHs), and eligible professionals are permitted to use a variety of solutions to meet the attestation. The attestation will be a bonus measure and a "no" attestation will not negatively affect the total score or status of the eligible hospital, CAH, or eligible professional. CMS shall evaluate patient matching attestation rates yearly to determine whether the accurate match rate level should be adjusted.

ASTP/ONC is also directed to coordinate with other federal partners to set up an anonymous voluntary reporting program for providers to submit matching accuracy data to HHS.

# HR 2002: The MATCH IT Act

1. **Defines** “patient match rate”

2. **Creates** a minimum demographic data set to be included in health IT, and standardize the way those demographic elements are entered

3. **Incorporates** data set from #2 into certified health IT products

4. **Provides** mechanisms to begin to measure where patient match rates are within the healthcare ecosystem

# Cosponsors

Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA-16)
Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL-11)
Rep. Seth Moulton (DMA-6)
Rep. Don Davis (D-NC-1)
Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC-AL)
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-19)
Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-2)
Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV-1)
Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D-NY-3)
Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL-7)
Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA-9)

# Endorsers

Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP)
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American College of Physicians
American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
American Heart Association
American Medical Informatics Association
Baptist Health
Becton Dickinson (BD)
Civitas Networks for Health
College of Healthcare  Information Management Executives (CHIME)
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE),
DirectTrust
E4health
Harris Data Integrity Solutions
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, Inc. (HIMSS)
Imprivata
Intermountain Health
Medical Group Management Association
MyLigo, Inc
Nemours Children's Health
OrthoVirginia
Parkland Health
Parkview Health
Patient ID Now Coalition
SynchroLink AI
Robert Wood Johnson Barnabus Health
Verato

# How do endorsements help?

- Shows members of Congress that an issue is important to companies and organizations within their district and state
- Raises visibility for the legislation
- Encourages members of Congress to support

# How can your organization endorse?

Talk to your government relations staff or leadership

- Explain the issues around patient matching and how it affects your organization
- Share our one-pager on the MATCH IT Act which includes the list of organizations that have endorsed the bill

Reach out to advocacy@ahima.org with questions or to endorse the bill

# How can you support as an individual?

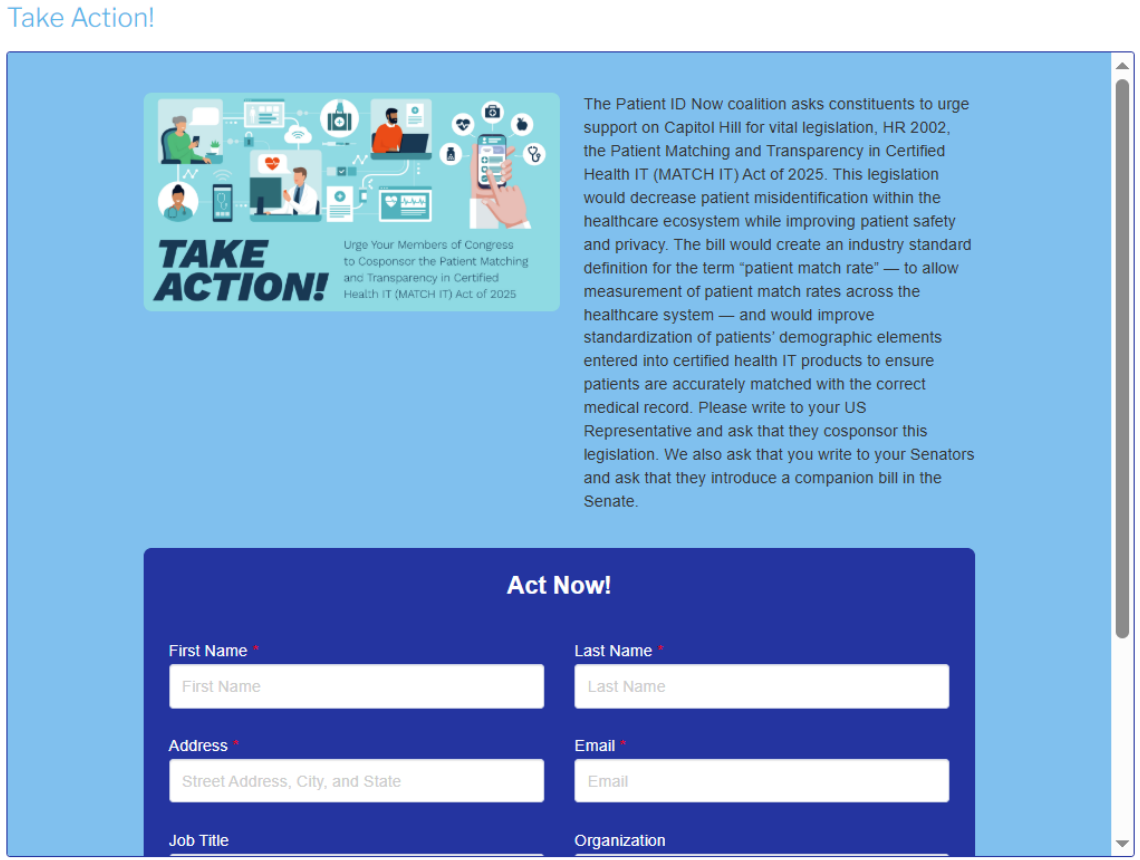
Visit

patientidnow.org/take-action

or

ahima.org/advocacy/take-action

to participate in email campaigns to your members of Congress.



# Questions?

# Contact Information

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