

Congress wants to know details of software provider information blocking



info_blocking_040915.pdf



Information blocking occurs when persons or entities knowingly and unreasonably interfere with the exchange or use of electronic health information. This report focuses on potential information blocking by health care providers and health IT developers, including vendors of EHR technology.

Here's the April 2015 report from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to the US Congress explaining the obstacles to implementing interoperability and informatics standards. The federal government has spent \$28 billion on health IT and Congress wants to know the details of information blockage.

This report (see link below) from ONC to Congress was discussed at the April 21 meeting of the Illinois Health Information Exchange Advisory Committee. The gist of the discussion was that the pilot studies on EHR interoperability have been excellent, but further progress will be difficult due to the reluctance of vendors and stodgy institutions to adopt existing informatics standards, especially HL7 standards. The Chair likened the situation to selling cars, saying that the states will have to mandate features that software must have in a manner similar to emission standards for cars. Our dental software vendors are lagging also.

http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/reports/info_blocking_040915.pdf