Chart #1: Side-by-Side Comparison of Leading Democratic Candidates' Health Information Technology Plans

As of July 20, 2007

	Key Features	Estimated Investment in Health IT	Estimated Savings From Health IT	Financial Incentives	Health Care Provider Specifications	Consumer Benefits	Privacy Protection
Hillary Clinton	➢ Modernize health care system to empower doctors and other health care providers to communicate electronically[i] ➢ Reduce waste and redundancy while improving safety and quality by reducing medical errors[ii]	➢ Invest $3 billion a year in health IT grants to develop a paperless health care system[iii]	➢ Estimated net savings of $77 billion/year[iv]	➢ Provide doctors with financial incentives to adopt health IT[v]	➢ Require providers who participate in Federal programs to adopt private, secure, and interoperable health IT[vi]	➢ Reduce waste and redundancy, improve safety and quality by reducing medical errors, and decrease health care costs[vii]	➢ Providers who participate in Federal programs required to adopt private, secure health IT[viii]
John Edwards	➢ Institute paperless medical records system that eliminates administrative waste, prevents duplicative testing and services, and allows health information to travel with people[ix] ➢ Help doctors implement new advances and evaluate quality[x] ➢ Provide needed resources to hospitals for implementation of health IT systems that will improve patient safety and hospital efficiency[xi]	No information found	➢ Estimated savings of up to $162 billion/year[xii]	➢ Offer financial incentives to doctors and hospitals if needed for implementation[xiii] ➢ Provide resources to hospitals for medication dispensers that quickly and accurately fill prescriptions[xiv] ➢ Assist rural hospitals and health centers to purchase and implement telemedicine systems[xv]	➢ Require physicians who want to participate in Federal insurance programs to use interoperable IT that protects privacy[xvi] ➢ Require doctors receiving health technology grants to report key quality measures[xvii] ➢ Institute computerized physician order entry[xviii] ➢ Use wireless handheld devices to allow hospital staff to communicate directly to physicians[xix] ➢ Establish at least 15 Regional Telemedicine Centers across the country and share best practices[xx]	➢ Decrease waste, improve safety and quality, reduce medical errors, and decrease health care costs ➢ Develop computerized patient reminder systems[xxi]	➢ Ensure protection of patients' privacy rights[xxii]

Barack Obama	

➢ Adopt standards-based electronic health information systems including electronic health records[xxiii] ➢ Phase in requirements for full implementation of health IT and commit Federal resources for implementation[xxiv] ➢ Ensure that health IT systems are developed in coordination with providers and frontline workers[xxv]	➢ Invest $10 billion/year over the next five years for health IT systems[xxvi]	➢ Estimated savings of up to $77 billion/year[xxvii]	➢ Phase in requirements for full implementation of health IT and commit Federal resources for implementation[xxviii]	➢ Phase in requirements for full implementation of health IT and commit Federal resources for implementation[xxix] ➢ Ensure that health IT systems are developed in coordination with health providers and institutions, including rural and underserved areas[xxx]	➢ Decrease waste, improve safety and quality, reduce medical errors, and decrease health care costs	➢ Ensure protection of patients' privacy[xxxi]

[i] "HEALTH CARE: Hillary Remarks on Reducing the Cost of Health Care." Hillary for President. 25 June 2007 < http://www.hillaryclinton.com/news/speech/view/?id=1789>

[ii] Ibid

[iii] Ibid

[iv] Ibid

[v] "Hillary Clinton Announces Agenda to Lower Health Care Costs and Improve Value for All Americans." Hillary for President. 24 May 2007.

[vi] "HEALTH CARE: Hillary Remarks on Reducing the Cost of Health Care." Hillary for President. 25 June 2007 < http://www.hillaryclinton.com/news/speech/view/?id=1789>

[vii] Ibid

[viii] Ibid

[ix] "Reforming Health Care to Make it Affordable, Accountable, and Universal." John Edwards 08. 26 June 2007. <http://johnedwards.com/news/headlines/20070614-health-care-costs-quality.pdf>

[x] Ibid

[xi] Ibid

[xii] Ibid

[xiii] Ibid

[xiv] Ibid

[xv] Ibid

[xvi] Ibid

[xvii] Ibid

[xviii] Ibid

[xix] Ibid

[xx] Ibid

[xxi] Ibid

[xxii] "Universal Health Care Through Shared Responsibility." John Edwards 08. 15 March 2007 <http://johnedwards.com/about/issues/health-care-overview.pdf>

[xxiii] "Barack Obama's Plan for a Healthy America." Obama '08. 26 June 2007. <http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/HealthPlanFull.pdf>

[xxiv] Ibid

[xxv] Ibid

[xxvi] Ibid

[xxvii] Ibid

[xxviii] Ibid

[xxix] Ibid

[xxx] Ibid

[xxxi] Ibid