The CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (Health FFRDC) is the first federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) dedicated to protecting and promoting the health and well-being of all Americans. Sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Health FFRDC serves as an objective advisor to all HHS operating divisions and other federal agencies with health and human services missions. The Health FFRDC is one of seven FFRDCs operated by The MITRE Corporation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to solving problems for a safer world.

Solving our Nation’s Toughest Health and Human Services Problems

The United States spends more on healthcare than any industrialized nation in the world, yet many opportunities remain to optimize health outcomes. With costs continuing to rise and the nation’s health at stake, HHS and other federal agencies face the critical challenge of reimagining the nation’s approach to health and human services missions.

The Health FFRDC applies cross-cutting capabilities in health and human service policy, clinical informatics, interoperability, and data analytics with world-class information technology, systems engineering, service integration, and prototyping to improve the health and well-being of the nation.

As operator of the Health FFRDC, MITRE mobilizes experts across an alliance of nonprofits, academia, and industry to achieve data-driven innovations in healthcare, public and population health, and social services.

Accelerating Health Innovation with Objective Insight

As specified in Federal Acquisition Regulation 35.017, the Health FFRDC “has access, beyond that which is common to the normal contractual relationship, to Government and supplier data, including sensitive and proprietary data.”

Because the Health FFRDC also does not manufacture products or compete with commercial industry, government and private-sector companies can provide MITRE with sensitive and proprietary data without fear of improper use or disclosure. MITRE can also convene health and human services stakeholders across federal agencies, states, localities, the private-sector, and academia in unique conflict-free environments.

As a result, the Health FFRDC can discover health and human services insights that are not available elsewhere and provide executive leaders objective, trusted advice and guidance.
The FFRDCs that MITRE operates take on tough technical challenges of national importance and provide leading-edge, practical, and cost-effective solutions. The following are examples of the issues addressed by the Health FFRDC.

### Health Policy
Delivering end-to-end health policy support to inform early policy analysis and accelerate rule writing, feedback disposition, and implementation. MITRE developed a [workflow prototype that helps health policy analysts](#) automate the process of analyzing comprehensive public comments to expedite federal rulemaking.

### Value-Based Healthcare
Fostering collaboration among healthcare stakeholders to promote the adoption of innovative alternative payment models (APMs). MITRE supported [the Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network’s launch of the Roadmap for Driving High Performance in APMs](#), identifying APMs that meet meaningful goals related to cost and quality, and developing a guide for payers to create and implement high-performing APMs.

### Health and Clinical Informatics
Connecting people and data to change the health market and reinvent the health experience. MITRE led work with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to [create CDS Connect](#), a project to demonstrate how evidence-based care can be more rapidly incorporated into clinical practice through interoperable decision support.

### Health Standards and Interoperability
Developing interoperable healthcare and patient-centric systems through standards application, systems architecture, conformance testing, and standards development. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology is accelerating health data interoperability by promoting the [MITRE-developed "Inferno" testing tool](#) that validates Application Programming Interface (API) conformance to the HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) standard.

### Health Data Analytics, Simulation and Visualization
Analyzing unique combinations of health data to communicate option analyses to decision makers. MITRE’s physical [HealthLab](#) space in Baltimore enables health policy and program leaders to apply health data analytics, simulations, and immersive visualizations to discover novel approaches to health policy challenges and create high-impact health programs.

### Cybersecurity
Increasing resilience of systems and data within health agencies, and improving threat sharing and security of medical devices in care settings. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration engaged MITRE through the Health FFRDC to create the [Medical Device Cybersecurity Regional Incident Preparedness and Response Playbook](#). The playbook outlines a framework for health delivery organizations and other stakeholders to plan for and respond to cybersecurity incidents around medical devices, ensure effectiveness of devices, and protect patient safety.

Learn more about the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare at [www.mitre.org/Health-FFRDC](http://www.mitre.org/Health-FFRDC)

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MITRE’s mission-driven teams are dedicated to solving problems for a safer world. Through our federally funded R&D centers and public-private partnerships, we work across government to tackle challenges to the safety, stability, and well-being of our nation.