

# Communicating Drug Information in the Public Health Information Network

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# Improving Communication: Two Initiatives

- Health community to FDA
  - Reporting drug related adverse events
    - Electronic MedWatch
- FDA to health community
  - Medication information
    - DailyMed

# Electronic MedWatch

- MedWatch - FDA safety information and adverse event reporting program
  - Mandatory reports from drug industry
  - Voluntary reports from health professionals
- Current reporting
  - Reports on paper forms
  - Some reports electronically transmitted

# Increase Adverse Event Reporting from Health Professionals

- Leverage healthcare information systems
  - Incorporate reporting into existing processes
  - Use data elements already collected
  - Use standards that support interoperability
- Electronic MedWatch
  - Converge on how to report adverse events
  - HL7 message for MedWatch information
  - Based on CDC messaging

# DailyMed Initiative

- DailyMed initiative
  - Improve access to drug information
  - Collaborative effort
    - Government agencies
    - Pharmaceutical companies
    - Healthcare information suppliers
- Current access to drug information is limited
  - Paper package inserts shipped with drugs
  - Limited access, easily out of date

# Improve Access to Medication Information for Health Professionals

- DailyMed
  - HL7 structured document
    - Contents of package insert by section
    - Specific data elements (e.g., ingredients, packaging)
    - Other medication information
  - Computer accessible medication information
    - For use in information systems
  - Up to date, reliable, free
    - Distributed by the FDA through the National Library of Medicine