# Wyoming Healthcare Commission

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**News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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## Consultant hired to study electronic health record infrastructure in Wyoming

The Wyoming Healthcare Commission's Information Technology Technical Management Subcommittee announced this week that John Snow, Inc. has been selected to develop a plan to establish a uniform statewide healthcare information and communications technology system in Wyoming.

JSI was chosen from a field of nine applicants with a broad range of experience in working with healthcare delivery systems in states that have rural and frontier populations.

The electronic health records system recommendations provided at the completion of the study are intended to speed and improve healthcare delivery in Wyoming, according to Subcommittee Chairman Geoff Smith, M.D., a Casper radiologist. JSI will report its recommendations to the Subcommittee, which will then forward the findings to the Healthcare Commission, Legislature, and Gov. Dave Freudenthal in September 2005.

The 2004 Wyoming Legislature created the Information Technology Technical Management Subcommittee in Enrolled Act No. 31, and allocated $400,000 to address the feasibility of and a plan for a uniform statewide healthcare information and communications technology system during the 2004 legislative session. The Act mandates completion of:

- A comprehensive study of existing stakeholders, communications systems, and health information systems within Wyoming; and

- Identification of current national trends in development of open, flexible, and interoperable technology systems, external funding sources, and other relevant topics.

**Comment:** I think a broader description captures the requirements of the bill.

The planning process will plot Wyoming's course to a uniform electronic health record system. Consideration will be given to the feasibility of a uniform healthcare information and technology system in light of current information and communications infrastructure, as well as the impact of parallel or competing national efforts. Public involvement and comment are built into the study process.

JSI, Inc. is a national and international public health consulting firm and has been working for 10 years with healthcare provider agencies to address the requirements of identifying management and operational data needs, evaluating information infrastructures and resources, and planning for and developing robust healthcare information systems to meet those needs. JSI has nearly 800 professional staff located in the United State. For more information about the company, visit www.jsi.com.

Created during the 2003 legislative session, the Wyoming Healthcare Commission is charged with developing strategies for improving access to health care and slowing cost increases for health care and medical liability insurance in Wyoming. The Commission is examining a wide range of healthcare issues and drafting specific recommendations designed to improve access to, and quality of, healthcare in Wyoming communities. For more information about the Wyoming Healthcare Commission, visit www.wyominghealthcarecommission.org, or call (307) 473-3839.