



*Legislative and Political Developments  
Impacting the Shift to  
Electronic Health Records*

---

**David Merritt**

Center for Health Transformation



Allscripts Webconference May 22, 2008



# **Healthcare Reform in the U.S.**

- The Public
- Current Debates in Washington
- Health Information Technology
- Candidates
- 2009 and Beyond



# The Public

- **81-17: dissatisfied with costs** (Gallup 11/07)
- **90-10: a total disaster**  
(CBS News/New York Times, 1/06)
  - Fundamental Changes: 56%
  - Completely Rebuild: 34%
- **64-35: will pay higher taxes to cover the uninsured** (CNN/Opinion Research, 5/07)



# Current Debates in Washington

- Medicare Physician Reimbursement
- Broad Health IT Legislation
  - Wired for Health Care Quality Act
- Electronic Prescribing
  - DEA and e-prescribing controlled substances
  - AHIC, Secretary Leavitt
- CMS Demonstrations
- New CBO Report on HIT



# Presidential Politics

**Senator Obama**  
**Senator Clinton**

**Senator McCain**

Allscripts Webconference 5/22/08



## **2009 and Beyond**

- President Obama
- President McCain
- Stronger Democratic Congress



4.

Transform the Financing  
of Health Insurance

3.

Modernize and Improve  
the Delivery of Care

2.

Create a Culture  
of Health

1.

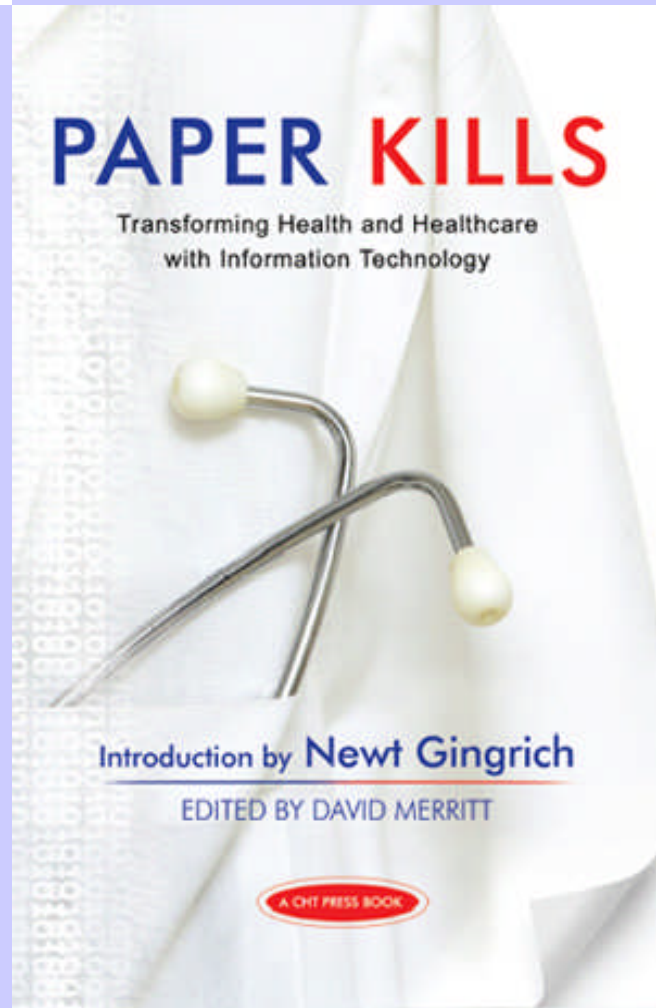
Improve Individual Health



# Healthcare Reform

- Healthcare remains a top issue in the campaign and with the public
- Current debates in Washington offer zero solutions
- Health information technology remains ripe for bipartisan action – yet it is unlikely to move
- Healthcare will be front and center beginning March 2009
- Four-box model is a good starting point

Allscripts Webconference 5/22/08



David Merritt  
[dmerritt@gingrichgroup.com](mailto:dmerritt@gingrichgroup.com)  
[www.paperkills.net](http://www.paperkills.net)

Allscripts Webconference 5/22/08