Kill the Clipboard:
Info for Tallahassee Providers

CMS's "Kill the Clipboard" initiative encourages collaboration in efforts to remove redundant paper intake with secure, standards-based digital health record sharing — here's what it means for providers in the Tallahassee area.

What is "Kill the Clipboard?"

"Kill the Clipboard" is a national initiative led by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), part of its broader Health Tech Ecosystem effort to make healthcare more interoperable and patient-centered. The goal: patients should never have to recreate their medical history, medication list, or insurance details on a new paper form at every visit. Instead, patients can share verified health information digitally and securely in seconds, using an open, national data-sharing standard called a SMART Health Link. CMS has invited EHR vendors, health systems, payers, and patient-facing apps across the country to pledge support for these standards-based tools, and the effort now has real momentum in Tallahassee: local health tech startup WellConnector was featured at CMS's HealthTech Ecosystem First Wave Launch event in Washington, DC, demonstrating this technology on a national stage.

How it Works

A SMART Health Link (SHL) is an open, national data-sharing standard — not a single app or platform. Here's what happens at check-in:

1. The patient generates a QR code from a compatible app. The code is a time-limited, encrypted pointer to their verified health record — demographics, medications, allergies, insurance, and visit history.
2. The front desk scans the code at check-in, and the data flows directly into the clinic's workflow as structured, standardized data (FHIR R4 / US Core, USCDI v3) — the same clinical data format increasingly used industry-wide.
3. Nothing sensitive sits in the QR code itself. It's an encrypted pointer, not the data.

The safety model is built around patient control: sharing is revocable, transmission is end-to-end encrypted, and patient identity is verified through high-assurance credentials (such as CLEAR, ID.me, or a mobile driver's license). The approach is designed to align with HIPAA's right-of-access provisions.

How Tallahassee Providers Can Get Involved

CMS has published a provider-facing implementation guide laying out three pathways for accepting SMART Health Links at check-in:

- **Built-in EHR scanning:**
  - Several major EHR vendors — including Epic, athenahealth, eClinicalWorks, NextGen, MEDITECH, and Medplum — are listed as working toward native scanning support (in progress, not yet live for all vendors).
- **A community-hosted, browser-based reader:**
  - No IT setup required — hosted by ecosystem partners for practices that want a simple, ready-made option.
- **A free, self-hosted reader:**
  - CMS built and open-sourced (MIT-licensed) its own QR reader that a practice's technology team can deploy internally.

Practices and organizations ready to commit can sign the Kill the Clipboard pledge directly with CMS. Questions can be directed to CMS at HealthTechRFI@cms.hhs.gov.

CMS resources:

- Provider Kill the Clipboard Guide — the full implementation guide, safety model, and technical documentation
- Kill the Clipboard pledge page — how to pledge, and the list of current participants
- Health Tech Ecosystem Categories — the broader CMS interoperability framework
- Pledge Demo Showcase — live demonstrations from participating organizations
- Interoperability Framework — technical standards and specifications

A Local Partner: WellConnector

WellConnector is a Tallahassee-based health tech startup, powered by locally-owned Ruvos, built to help patients and providers in our own community put SMART Health Link technology to work. WellConnector is an active participant in CMS's Kill the Clipboard initiative, was featured this year at CMS's HealthTech Ecosystem First Wave Launch event, and is listed in CMS's Pledge Demo Showcase alongside national participants.

Because WellConnector is local, its team can work hands-on with your practice to tailor a SMART Health Link implementation around your specific workflows, EHR setup, and patient population — rather than asking you to adapt to a rigid, one-size-fits-all system. If your practice is exploring SMART Health Links and wants a local, knowledgeable partner to help navigate the options, reach out to WellConnector to learn more (info@wellconnector.com).