



Health IT Standards Committee Implementation Workgroup Meeting

Washington, DC (March 8, 2010) – [The Health IT Standards Committee Implementation Workgroup](#) held a meeting focused on “Lessons & Resources to Accelerate Adoption.” Three panels discussed how to help providers achieve meaningful use through effective meaningful use implementation preparation.

Public Sector Panel:

Doug Fridsma MD- Acting Director, Office of Health IT and Standards, ONC

- ONC is working to create a simplified NHIN and “NHIN on-ramp” (NHIN Direct) to support 2011 meaningful use provisions.
- NHIN Direct provides wikis, blogs, open source, and content to help people “get on” the NHIN. Content follows the rules of the HIT Standards Committee
- “Bottom Up innovation within a coordination”
- Fridsma- Keep it simple, design for the little guy, standards and not innovation

Jessica Kahn- Technical Director for Health IT, CMS Medicaid

- CMS is requesting from states a “blueprint” on how they plan to implement the CMS Medicaid EHR incentive program.
- CMS will review State Medicaid Agencies’ requests to revise the Meaningful Use floor definition. The NPRM states that CMS will entertain such requests from States but only within the parameters of what a certified EHR can do and only where it maintains the integrity of the floor definition
- CMS is building a web repository on CMS.gov for resources on the EHR Incentive Programs. This will include white papers, templates, approved State Medicaid HIT Plans and links to other valuable Federal resources
- CMS is facilitating interaction between Regional Extension Centers and State Medicaid agencies to make sure to eliminate duplicative technical assistance efforts.

Kathleen M. Roberts, National Institute of Standards and Technology

- ONC is consulting with NIST to develop the test infrastructure and methodologies for testing EHR products. NIST will also accredit the two permanent Certification Bodies as highlighted in last weeks Certification Programs NPRM.
- NIST is building this infrastructure on consensus based standards
- NIST is conducting usability research with AHRQ, with the eventual goal of usability being included in certification.
- NIST is seeking public comment on the draft Meaningful Use Test Method: http://xw2k.nist.gov/healthcare/use_testing/under_development.html Comments can be submitted to hit-tst-fdbk@nist.gov



Implementation Experiences and Innovation Panels - Vendor/ Provider Panels:

- Providers and vendors are both concerned regarding strained timelines and the resulting risk management issues. Implementing too fast to reach the MU floor could result in major patient safety issues.
- Independent 200-400 bed hospitals are the greatest risk. Large academic hospitals have excellent staff support, and smaller facilities are receiving priority for support from regional extension centers.
- Major concerns about HIE to HIE connectivity. What is the backbone of NHIN? Also, how do you connect PHR's to the NHIN?
- Hospitals and Vendors are also concerned about the "all or nothing" funding approach.
- Mike Valentine (CEO Cerner) There are two items included in the meaningful use recommendations that Cerner views as challenges. The first is the struggle to gain clarity around many of the rules in the interim final rule and NPRM and continued management of the unknowns. This lack of clarity and the inherent timelines lead to the second challenge of helping our clients and the industry achieve the appropriate level of awareness and education to make the most informed decisions on how to proceed with the development or refinement of a roadmap that aligns with meaningful use requirements and allows them to pursue the most practical aggressive timeline to take full advantage of the incentive opportunity.
- The balance between ingenuity/innovation and interoperability is a major challenge.
- Aneesh Chopra: "Folks need to see MU criteria as a floor not a ceiling."
- Panel Response: "The floor by itself presents huge challenges."