



## Health IT Standards Committee

### Meeting Notes November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

#### [Meeting Agenda](#)

#### Background

The **Health IT Standards Committee** is charged with making recommendations to the National Coordinator for Health IT on standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria for the electronic exchange and use of health information. In developing, harmonizing, or recognizing standards and implementation specifications, the Health IT Standards Committee will also provide for the testing of the same by the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST).

#### Introduction

National Coordinator, Dr. David Blumenthal welcomed the HIT Standards Committee (HITSC) to the virtual meeting. Dr. Blumenthal noted that ONC staff are anxious for meaningful use to go live with the provider community on January 1<sup>st</sup> (Meaningful Use went live for hospitals on October 1, 2010.) He reminded the role that the Standards Committee will play in analyzing gaps in standards supporting Meaningful Use Stage 1, as well as advising the Policy Committee on the practicality of existing standards to support policy recommendations.

Committee Chair Jonathan Perlin overviewed the agenda, and Dr. John Halamka noted that the next great “gap” to achieving interoperability is the adoption of transport standards.

#### Implementation Workgroup Update

Implementation Workgroup Co-Chairs Liz Johnson and Judy Murphy updated the HITSC on the Implementation Workgroup preparations for a hearing in January on initial feedback on the implementation of EHRs for Meaningful Use from the private sector. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of January 10<sup>th</sup> and will run through January 11<sup>th</sup>. (Please note, January 12<sup>th</sup> will be the next in person Standards Committee meeting.)

- The January 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> hearing will be titled “Real World Experiences Working with Meaningful Use”



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- The Implementation Workgroup continue work with HIT Policy Committee's Adoption Workgroup to collect implementation/adoption experiences in order to formulate recommendations to the Standards and Policy Committee's and ONC.
- The hearing will feature 5 panels:
  - Supporting Implementation (Regional Extension Centers/ Certifiers)
  - Early adopters of MU seeking attestation –Eligible Providers Experience – small and large practices
  - Early adopters of MU seeking attestation Hospitals Experience – small and large, IDNs
  - Meaningful Use Criteria (Including workforce issues,metrics and vendors) (Performance Metrics, Quality Measures)
  - Operationalizing Exchange
- Each panelist has been asked to respond to the following questions in their testimony:
  - Within your area of expertise, what are some of challenges, barriers, and successes?
  - Can you tell us what approaches and methods worked? What has not?
  - What have been your outcomes/results? Have there been any surprises or unexpected outcomes? How have you addressed them?
  - What do you anticipate to be issues in the future? How would you mitigate them?
  - Do you have any real-world user stories, illustrations, and/or examples?
- The Implementation Workgroup continue work with HIT Policy Committee's Adoption Workgroup to collect implementation/adoption experiences in order to formulate recommendations to the Standards and Policy Committee's and ONC.

#### **Direct Project Announcement**

- NHIN Direct released a [press release](#) on November 29<sup>th</sup> announcing that NHIN Direct will now be known as The Direct Project.



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- The new Direct Project website will be [www.directproject.org](http://www.directproject.org) and #directproject will be the new Twitter hash-tag for all Direct Project updates.
- The new website will include a documentation library including a Direct Project Overview and best practice guidance for directed messaging based on the work of the Privacy and Security Tiger team.
- Twenty plus Health IT vendors that have announced plans to leverage the Direct Project for message transport in connection with their solutions and services.

#### **Vendor Discussion on Standards for Routing Health Information Data**

- Representatives from Verizon, Visionshare, Covisnt, Axolotl, Surescripts, and Intel were asked to respond to the following questions.
  - Discuss approaches to the standards used for secure point-to-point (P2P) transport of health for:
    - Authenticating Endpoints
    - Encryption
    - Assuring that data is not modified in transit
    - Messaging protocol
    - Confirming the receipt of messages
  - What factors affected your decision to implement P2P messaging as you did? Would you make the same decision if you were designing it today?
  - What do you consider essential requirements for simple, P2P exchanges between two provider organizations?
  - Do you exchange information with any federal organizations using the NHIN CONNECT gateway? If so, how is that accomplished?
- The panelists were supportive of the NHIN-Direct/The Direct Project.
- Most panelists indicated support for the use of SMIME and SMTP as transport standards.
- John Halamka noted that identity management and trust fabric are critical to the success of information transport.



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- Dr. Halamka noted that a key task of the Standards Committee would be to evaluate the successes of the NHIN Direct/The Direct Project over the coming weeks and make recommendations to the HITSC, HITPC, and ONC regarding the Direct Project Use cases capability to act as appropriate transportation standards.
- The key factors for Direct Project recommendations will be: Is it simple, direct, scalable, and secure?

#### **Meeting Adjournment**

- The next HIT Standards Committee meeting will take place (virtual meeting only) on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 9AM-4:00PM.
- The Implementation Workgroup will have a planning meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to continue to develop the agenda for the “Real World Experiences Working with Meaningful Use,” which will take place in Washington DC on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>