Health IT Standards Committee Meeting
July 17, 2013

Overview

The Health Information Technology Standards Committee (HITSC) held an informational meeting on July 17, 2013 to share updates from the Clinical Operations Workgroup with a special presentation from the Formulary & Benefits Standards subgroup. The Implementation workgroup presented next, following afterwards, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) presented updates on the Standards & Interoperability (S&I) framework and on the Health IT Patient Safety plan. The committee ended with a discussion on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) electronic submission Medical Documentation initiative (esMD).

Opening Remarks *(David Muntz, Principal Deputy National Coordinator, Jonathan Perlin, Chair of the Committee, & John Halmaka, Vice Chair of Committee)*

David Muntz, Principal Deputy National Coordinator, remarked upon the ONC testimony before the Senate Finance Committee occurring at the same time, noting the many challenges ahead to create and implement standards, however, progress is occurring with the positive steps and achievements made so far due to the work of the ONC and the Federal Advisory Committees. Dr. John Halamka, Vice Chair of the Committee, highlighted the importance of focusing the committee's work to support hospitals and health care professionals succeed in the environment of meaningful use, ICD-10, Accountable Care, and other regulatory mandates.

Clinical Operations Workgroup *(John Klimek, National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, Kim Nolen, Pfizer, Jaime Ferguson, Chair, COWG & John Halamka, Co-Chair, COWG)*

The Clinical Operations Workgroup presented an update on the recommendations for enhanced Formulary & Benefit Standards. The goal is to get a patient's Formulary & Benefit information to the health care provider through certified electronic health records (EHRs) in order to ensure an efficient and a fluid flow of information that is accurate at the point-of-care. To accomplish this, the group is working towards developing Certified EHR with the functionality to run patient level formulary checks against the patient's actual drug benefit for a specific drug & dose in a timely manner. The workgroup presented further short-term recommendations to achieve their goal and addressed a list of questions and concerns raised at the June HITSC meeting. Committee members agreed upon the Formulary & Benefit Standards subgroup's recommendations and look forward to the next steps.

The workgroup also briefly discussed the topic of image exchange. The group is in progress with developing three use cases. The group hosted an expert testimony hearing on Friday, July 19th

Implementation Workgroup *(Liz Johnson, Chair, IWG & Cris Ross, Co-chair, IWG)*

The Implementation workgroup provided a description of their planned Implementation and Usability hearing on July 23, 2013 from 9:30am-4:30pm. The workgroup shared questions prepared for the four panels consisting of Eligible Providers, Eligible Hospitals, Health Information Exchange and

Interoperability, and Usability. Members agreed with the questions and expressed excitement to hear from different perspectives during the hearing. The presentation can be found here.

ONC Updates *(Doug Fridsma, ONC & Jodi Daniel, ONC)*

Doug Fridsma, MD, PhD, Chief Science Officer & Director at the Office of Science & Technology, provided an update on the Standards and Interoperability (S&I) Framework activities. In the two and a half years into the S&I Framework, the participant number has increased to 2,400 and 700 of those are active members. The presentation identified all of the current initiatives and their progress up to date. Two new initiatives were added recently:

- European Union (EU)/US eHealth Cooperation (6/20/2013): The first international collaboration with Europe and the UK to take steps on sharing data internationally
- Data Access Framework (7/16/2013): Will provide access for health care providers into their own data network for providers to be able to generate analytic reports and other useful tools. The plan is to merge with the Query Health initiative.

Jodi Daniel, ONC's Director of the Office of Policy and Planning, presented on the ONC Policy and Program update, focusing on the Health IT Patient Safety Action & Surveillance Plan released on July 2, 2013. The presentation reviewed the goals and strategies from the Safety Plan as well as efforts to implement the new surveillance of Certified EHR Technology (CEHRT) initiatives. ONC also announced the new "ONC Certified HIT" mark that health IT products can display to customers to indicate that the product meets the 2014 edition standards and certification criteria.

esMD and Digital Signature Presentation *(Melanie, Combs-Dyer, CMS & Robert Dieterle, esMD Initative Coordinator)*

Finally, Melanie Combs-Dyer and Robert Dieterle provided a thorough presentation on the background of the electronic submission of Medical Documentation (esMD) initiative, a part of the S&I Framework. The presentation described the roadmap to use esMD to close the loop between CMS and health care providers on medical documentation submission. esMD began operation in 2011 and is now rapidly increasing in users.

The next HITSC meeting will be held on August 22, 2013.