



eHEALTH INITIATIVE

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Health IT Standards Committee Meeting August 22, 2013

Overview

The [Health Information Technology Standards Committee](#) (HITSC) held an informational meeting on August 22, 2013 to share updates from three groups: the Implementation Workgroup, the NWHIN Power Team, S&I Framework, and ONC Policy & Programs. The Implementation Workgroup gave an overview on the July 23rd Implementation and Usability Hearing in addition to developments from the Test Scenario initiative. The NWHIN Power Team provided a thorough presentation on new technical standard applications. The ONC representatives presented on the Standards & Interoperability (S&I) Framework activities and an update on policy and programs including Health Information Exchange (HIE), Meaningful Use (MU), and a recap from the Health IT Policy Committee (HITPC).

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)

Opening Remarks (*Farzad Mostashari, National Coordinator*)

To open the meeting, Dr. Mostashari provided a reflection of his years in federal service. He went over his two fundamental misunderstandings of being a public servant. The first pertains to his years working at the Centers for Disease Control, and the second refers to his time at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC). He thanked the HITSC members and to the broad scope of participants involved in implementing health IT for sharing the passion and progress to serve. The HITSC members recognized Dr. Mostashari for his leadership and public service.

The meeting continued with a review of the agenda from Jonathan Perlin, Chair of the Committee, and John Halamka, Vice Chair of the Committee.

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

Liz Johnson [provided](#) overview of the implementation, certification, and Meaningful Use (MU) workgroups co-sponsored "Implementation and Usability Hearing" [hearing](#) on July 23, 2013. A complete eHI summary of the hearing can be found [here](#). Below are the 4 panels and their key findings:

- 1) User Centered Design (UCD) Processes Panel:
 - Vendor UCD process varies significantly thereby bringing confusion between feature/function versus useable workflow.
 - Timing of new releases limits end user design input.

- Allow private industry to drive UCD.
- 2) Eligible Provider & Eligible Hospital Panel:
 - Most frequent challenges mentioned related to actual stage 2 requirements include: Patient Access, View, Download & Transmit, Summary of Care and Quality measures.
 - The other incidental finding was a consistent concern about the timeline for completion of the advance work and 'making the attestation window'.
 - 3) Health Information Exchange (HIE) and Interoperability Panel:
 - The use of HIEs is proliferating but the functionalities are diverse.
 - Questions exist around how the vendor products will stitch together particularly related to secure transport.
 - 4) Usability Panel:
 - Flexibility in design can create conflict with goal of use of standards (i.e., transport, e-measures).
 - Usability should be guided by understanding the users, the workflow and the context of work.
 - Urgent testing and therefore design often reflects measure criterion compliance.
 - Insufficient, inconsistent formal data are available on implementation and usability – needs study.
 - Additional certification criteria for testing is not the answer, consider future surveillance activities of the ONC.

The three overall recommendations from the hearing are:

- 1) Promote usability by aligning testing and certification with plausible workflows
- 2) Identify industry standards for EHR elements to promote safety and usability
- 3) Establish normative time to implementation and Meaningful Use attestation from rule issuance.

Carol Bean from the ONC followed with an explanation of the **Test Scenario Development**. The group serves to advise the ONC on Test Scenarios for the 2014 Edition EHR Certification Criteria in a scenario-based testing approach. As of August 7th, the group has developed a proof of concept and piloted a draft Test Scenario. The ONC plans to post five draft test scenarios online by September 6, 2013 and will be open to public comment and feedback. The audience members approved of the scenario-based testing approach.

NwHIN Power Team: Final Recommendations for RESTful Exchange Standards
(Dixie Baker, Chair, NwHIN PT & David McCallie, Co-chair, NwHIN PT)

The Power Team is assigned the task to explore new technical standards for interoperability, health information exchange, and in promoting direct patient access to electronic health data. Ms. Baker reviewed the work to test Blue Button Plus (BB+), HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) specification, and RESTful Health Exchange (RHEX) as possible use as transport standards for Meaningful Use Stage 3. The discussion went further into the interoperability and authentication standards applications such as RESTful transport (HTTPS), OAuth2, OpenID Connect, and FHIR.

Ms. Baker provided an animation of how BB+ “pull” process for a consumer to acquire his/her EHR information from a smart phone.

A list of the Power Team’s further explanations, conclusions and recommendations can be found in the [presentation](#).

S&I Framework Update (*Lauren Thompson, Office of Science & Technology, ONC*)

Ms. Thompson [provided](#) an overview on the progress of the current 14 initiatives of the S&I Framework. A discussion followed on the concern of having too many on-going projects. Dr. Mostashari explained the intent to identify high priority S&I activities for investors to easily decide on which initiatives are of interest.

ONC Policy and Program Update (*Jodi Daniel, Director, Office of Policy and Planning, ONC*)

Jodi Daniel [delivered](#) a quick update on programs and policy of ONC. First, Ms. Daniel presented the upcoming event titled, [Consumer Health IT Summit](#), focused on the blue button movement, which will be held on September 16, 2013 in Washington DC. Next, she presented an overview of the recently released ONC and CMS “[Principles and Strategy to Accelerate Health Information Exchange \(HIE\)](#)” document, reflecting new agency regulatory guidelines to advance HIE and build upon the foundation of Medicare and Medicaid reforms and HIE certification.

Ms. Daniel followed with an overview of the [Federal Health IT Strategic Plan Progress Report](#) on the implementation of the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan for 2011-2015. ONC plans to update the progress report in early 2014. For Meaningful Use (MU), Ms. Daniel went over the [Stage 2 Cross Vendor Exchange Demo](#), and new resources for MU [solutions](#) as well as MU [success stories and case studies](#) now available online. ONC also released the [EHR Contracts Guide](#) for purchasers and users to understand key contract terms.

Finally, Ms. Daniel provided updates from the Health IT Policy Committee (HITPC) meeting on August 7th. A detailed eHI summary of the August HITPC can be found [here](#). Below are the highlights Ms. Daniel pointed out:

- 1) Meaningful Use Stage 3: Presented draft recommendations. Currently working to make revisions. The group will present new final recommendations next meeting (September 18th).
- 2) FDASIA Update: Presented draft recommendations. The workgroup made revisions, including requests to provide more clarity and identify the scope of health IT. The draft framework will be published in January 2014 and will be open for comments.
- 3) Privacy & Security Update: Discussed policy needs for targeted query and non-targeted queries. Also discussed the Meaningful Use attestation for security. Stage 3 recommends to improve accountability for complying with security measures
- 4) Information Exchange Update: Current recommendations are in progress to allow EHR system to provide a provider directory.

The [next HITSC meeting](#) will be an in-person meeting in Washington, DC on September 18th.