Health IT Standards Committee Meeting
September 18, 2013

Overview

The Health Information Technology Standards Committee (HITSC) held a virtual meeting on September 18, 2013 to share updates from four groups: the Clinical Operations Workgroup, the Scenario-based testing group, ONC Policy, and ONC Standards. The meeting included detailed presentations on image exchange standards, FDA's Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA) committee, Meaningful Use (MU), and HITSC's standard priorities for FY 2014.

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, ONC)*

In his last standards meeting, Dr. Mostashari provided a few words of advice for the committee. He emphasized the need for earlier implementation for pilots, testing, validation, and certification process. He asked that the standards committee members to make sure the standards we have will work as we move to the 2014 set of standards, which for the first time contain terms, templates, and protocols for sending and receiving digital information. As well, he reiterated that the committee cannot afford to delay interoperability any longer.

Clinical Operations Workgroup - Image sharing Update *(Jaime Ferguson)*

Jaime Ferguson presented on the use case framework for image sharing. In order to develop a framework on guidelines to view, download, and transmit (VDT) image sharing, each use case scenario must define the actors, actions, content, initiation, and systems:
- Actors: Clnician, Care Team, Patient
- Actions: Clinical Decision, Report, Audit
- Content: Full Set, Key Images, Report
- Initiation: Manual, Triggered, Automatic
- Systems: EHR, PHR, PACS, Archives

Ms. Ferguson continued on with explanations on the protocol and architecture considerations for image sharing.

Examples of Protocol Considerations:
- "Zero footprint"
  - No helper apps, plugins, applets, Flash or SilverLight
- Separation of requestor from performer

- Very common proprietary patterns
- Encrypted URLs

Architecture Considerations:
- Push and Pull "architecture"
- "Brokered" "hybrid" "clearing house"
- Learn from global experiences in Canada and the UK – consider the success, failures, and maturity of methodologies used elsewhere.
- Allows patients the ability to VDT from local to remote areas in order to take better control of their health
- Use cases need the agility to adapt to rapidly changing technology such as mobile

The next steps for the Clinical Operations Workgroup are to:
- Define a few use cases for image sharing
- Identify for each use case:
  - The minimum recommended bundle of standards
  - Needed improvements to standards
- Further HITSC discussion – bring back comments to the discussion next meeting

Scenario–Based Testing Update *(Scott Purnell-Saunders, Office of Certification, ONC)*

Scott Purnell-Saundars at the ONC's Office of Certification presented an update and future steps on the Scenario-Based Testing. In 2013 to date, the ONC has:
- Developed a Proof of Concept including a draft Test Scenario.
- Piloted a draft Test Scenario with 2 ATL-vendor pairs. The results show that the testing time and test set-up burden were reduced.
- Released Draft Testing Scenarios for feedback found here.

ONC's plan for developing further scenarios is based on a clinically-plausible workflow that:
- Follows a patient from contact with an eligible provider (EP) or eligible hospital (EH) through care and follow up (labeled as "Group 1").
- Follows and EP or EH from patient care through public health and clinical quality measure reporting (labeled as "Group 2"). This will occur after the development and completion of Group 1 and as ONC approves group 1 as an option for testing.
- Includes all of the 2014 Edition EHR Certification Criteria
- Develops into a library of testing scenarios
- Will be developed an created by multiple sources and vetted and approved by ONC

Mr. Saundars provided illustrations to explain Group 1 and 2 scenarios in the presentation slides. Group 1 of the Draft Testing Scenarios was published on September 12, 2013 on the Office of Certification website here. The Scenario-based testing team is looking for feedback on the concept, structure, usability, and clinical plausibility of the scenarios. Feedback can be submitted here.

ONC Policy *(Jodi Daniel, Director of Policy & Planning, ONC)*

Jodi Daniel presented updates on FDA's Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA) and Meaningful Use, along with other HITPC updates. Starting with FDASIA, Ms. Daniel explained the background and purpose of the FDASIA workgroups. The FDASIA team will provide a report

to Congress by January 2014 containing a proposed strategy and recommendations on a risk-based regulatory framework pertaining to health IT and mobile health apps. The presentation slides provide more information on the FDASIA workgroup process, accomplishments, and recommendations thus far.

Next steps for FDASIA include:
- ONC, FDA and the FCC will collaboratively review and consider the work of the FDASIA Workgroup.
- The agencies will also review and consider all the public comments received through the Request for Comment mentioned earlier.
    o A total of 39 submissions were received
- The agencies will issue a report that contains a proposed strategy and recommendations for a risk-based regulatory framework for HIT, including mobile medical applications.

On Meaningful Use (MU), a high level outcomes framework on MU Stage 3 was approved by the Health IT Policy Committee (HITPC) on September 4th. The framework was developed by the MU Workgroup. The framework will guide further considerations for Meaningful Use stage 3 conversations this fall. More information can be found here, on eHI's summary of the August HITSC meeting.

In November 2013, the MU Workgroup will produce detailed recommendations on the following three key areas:
- Functional Objectives: Detailed recommendations on functional objectives; expected to build on the Outcomes Framework
- Deeming: Recommendations on the potential for an optional functional deeming pathway for MU attestation
- eCQMs: In October, AC/CQM Tiger Team will conduct an analysis of current and pipeline eCQM measures and concepts that would be important for Stage 3 and for a deeming pathway (MUWG will consider as it develops its recommendations for November)

ONC Standards Update *(Dr. Doug Fridsma, Chief Science Officer & Director, Office of Science and Technology, ONC)*

Dr. Doug Fridsma reviewed the current Standards and Interoperability (S&I) framework priorities:
- Short-term Priorities (0-6 months)
    o Structured Data Capture (SDC)
    o Query Strategy & Query Basics (DAF)
    o APIs
    o Quality & Clinical Decision Support (CDS)
- Mid-term Priorities (6-12 months)
    o SDC
    o Query Strategy & Query Basics (DAF)
    o APIs
    o Quality & CDS
- Long-term Priorities (12+ months)

- o SDC
- o Targeted Query (DAF)
- o EU-US eHealth Cooperation

Dr. Fridsma provided summaries, current status, and snapshots on SDC, Data Access Framework (DAF) shown in the presentation slides.

Afterward he presented an Activities Matrix that lists the current HITSC priorities, S&I framework initiatives, and HL7 ballots in progress. The plan is to use the matrix to prioritize the most important projects over the next few weeks.

The next HITSC meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on October 16, 2013.