Health IT Standards Committee Meeting
February 18, 2014

Overview
The Health Information Technology Standards Committee (HITSC) held a virtual meeting on February 18, 2014, to provide updates for the following areas: the HITSC Workplan, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information (ONC), and the Consumer Technology Workgroup.

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).

 Presentations:

1. **HITSC Workplan Updates** (*Jonathan Perlin, Chair, HITSC & Chief Medical Offier, Hospital Corporation of America*)

Jonathan Perlin briefly discussed HITSC workplan updates and referred to the December workplan presentation.

2. **ONC Updates** (*Jodi Daniel, Director, Office of Policy and Planning, ONC and Dr. Doug Fridsma, Chief Science Officer & Director, Office of Science and Technology, ONC*)

Jodi Daniel provided a presentation overview and highlighted four key discussion points as noted below:

- *The Learning Healthcare system*: In thinking ahead, it is important to establish goals and have a view of the healthcare ecosystem that will be supported by standards. The healthcare ecosystem includes several orders of magnitude where engagement occurs: patients, practice, population, and the public at large. At each level, the ecosystem must support personal health records (PHRs), Electronic Health Records (EHRs), Health Information Exchange (HIE), and National/International Health Analytics. Standards and interoperability support the critical need of information sharing throughout the healthcare ecosystem. Establishing the proposed learning healthcare system will take years;

however, in the meantime, the HITSC is trying to identify high value activity that will support healthcare system components.

- ***HITPC letters of transmittal***:
  Two HITPC transmittal letters have been received highlighting subject areas for HITSC review:
  - o ***HITPC- Information Exchange Group Transmittal letter***: Three focus areas were identified, which include: (1) patient record query, (2) provider directories, and (3) provider data migration and patient portability.
  - o ***HITPC - Privacy and Security Tiger Team***.
    Three focus areas were identified, which include: (1) testing authentication, (2) standalone certification, and (3) patient authorization requirements or policies

- ***Meaningful Use (MU) Feedback***
  - o The HITSC will be making final MU recommendations to HITPC on March 11th. Some feedback has been provided by HITSC members; however, HITSC plans to form a task force to consolidate and provide rapid feedback for review at the March 26th HITSC meeting.

- ***ONC 2015 Edition NPRM***
  - o The new certification approach allows for more frequent criteria updates and adds more predictability for EHR developers. The new criteria will improve on the 2014 edition.
  - o 2015 Certification is expected to be voluntary and is designed to be helpful. It is also not expected to be a MU requirement.
  - o The NPRM is forthcoming and HITSC workgroups will be asked to respond.

3. **Consumer Technology Workgroup (CTWG) Update** (*Leslie Kelly Hall, Chair, CTWG & Senior VP of Policy, Healthwise; and Russ Leftwich, Co-Chair, CTWG & Chief Medical Information Officer Office, eHealth Initiatives State of Tennessee*)

John Halamka provided introductory comments, noting that one of the most important forms of interoperability involves patient and family engagement. Mr. Halamka spoke on the importance of considering what transactions we can enable today given the experience with DIRECT, CCDA and other field tested standards and what areas require additional work. He also emphasized the increasing importance of standards based devices.

Leslie Kelly Hall presented workgroup updates and began by providing a brief CTWG background summary. Additionally, Ms. Hall reviewed the charge and scope of the CTWG. In discussing standards use recommendations, she noted that emphasis is placed on interoperability between systems. She mentioned that interoperability encourages the use of non-tethered consumer applications, products, and devices.

Ms. Hall noted the continuum of patient generated health data (PGHD) and MU Stage 3 Standards ready to support various data types including messaging, structured questionnaires, unstructured narratives, devices, care plans, and collaborative care planning. The CTWG also examined what existing standards could be used and applied.

Ms. Hall reviewed:
- The header approach in HL7, noting its flexibility.
- CDA templates and two specific header template types for providers and for patients/ consumers.
- Care Team roster, noting there was no previous specificity in areas such as attributes and that use cases focused on care transition.
- Four different patient generated data use cases, the standards supporting them, evaluation criteria, and classification criteria (maturity and adoptability).
- Continua, associated use cases, and the Continua model of connectivity.
- Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) and associated use cases involving structured and semi-structured questionnaires.
- PGHD recommendations highlighting a need to allow for device innovation.

With the future certification criteria, patients will be more involved in healthcare planning and move towards longitudinal care versus episodic care.

For all presentations and a recording of the meeting, visit the HITSC meeting website.

The next HITSC meeting is scheduled for March 26th, 2014 from 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM.