

HIT Standards Committee Meeting Summary: October 14, 2009

The Health Information Technology (HIT) Standards Committee met on October 14 and heard update presentations from all four of its workgroups. The Committee also announced a new opportunity for public participation in the Committee's activities (see below under "Implementation Workgroup").

Below, please find a summary of highlights from the meeting. Materials from the meeting are posted at:

http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1271&&PageID=16498&mode=2&in_hi_userid=11113&cached=true.

Clinical Operations Workgroup

- The Workgroup identified certain gaps that it would like to focus on and that it believes the HIT Policy Committee should focus on, particularly with respect to the 2011 "meaningful use" measures. The Workgroup would like more detail regarding:
 - Definitions for high cost imaging with structured indications;
 - Definitions around patient access to EHRs; and
 - What "patient-specific educational materials" means.
- The full Committee held a discussion on issues of patient access to EHRs, including minimum content requirements, the type of access permitted, timing of the access, etc. Committee members drew on their own experiences, and gave examples of patient access to records at Geisinger, Intermountain Health Care, Beth Israel Deaconess, and the VA system, among others.
- The Workgroup also launched a "Vocabulary" sub-workgroup to propose solutions on vocabulary and cross-mapping issues.

Clinical Quality Workgroup

- The Workgroup is continuing to retool quality measures for use with EHRs.
- They expect this retooling to be complete by the end of March, 2010, and also plan to provide a "test deck" of sample patients at that time.

Privacy and Security Workgroup

- The Workgroup made two changes to their earlier recommendations:
 - They changed the SOAP Version from 1.1 to 1.2 (because there has not been any implementation of 1.1 to date); and

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- They eliminated Kerberos and IHE Enterprise User Authentication (EUA) from their recommendation. The recommendation is now to allow (but not require) Kerberos in 2011 but to disallow it in 2013-2015.
- The group also identified several gaps to be addressed for 2013, including standard vocabulary for representing consumer consents.

Implementation Workgroup

- This Workgroup stated that it would like to learn from the broader public about “real-world” standards implementation experiences.
- To this end, they plan to:
 - Hold a hearing on October 29 to take testimony from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. (Note that the time and location of this meeting have not yet been announced.)
 - Open a two-week online forum following this hearing, to allow the public to engage in a period of “structured dialog” about adoption and implementation concerns.

The Committee announced that the majority of its next meeting would be devoted to hearing testimony about security. (Note that there is conflicting information about the date of the next meeting: the Standards Committee website lists November 17, but yesterday the Committee stated that the meeting would be held on November 19. I have placed a call to the Committee in an effort to get clarification on this.)

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