

eHealth Initiative

Stimulus Discussion Points

Health Technology Network of Greater Washington

**Brian Wagner
Director of Government Relations
eHealth Initiative**

Recent HIT News

- eHI participated in a health care stakeholders' meeting at the White House
- David Blumenthal, MD, appointed National Coordinator, takes office Monday
- 17 of 20 HIT Policy Committee members appointed; HHS won't appoint last 3 spots, or appoint the HIT Standards Committee, until Kathleen Sebelius is confirmed

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Updates

- May 17 is big day (approximate) for ARRA deadlines
 - 2009 Operating Plan for the National Coordinator must be released by approximately May 17 (90 days after passage of legislation)
 - National Coordinator cannot allocate stimulus money until the Plan is published
 - The HIT Standards Committee must develop a schedule for evaluating recommendations from the HIT Policy Committee
 - HHS must publish a draft description of the new HIT Regional Extension Centers, including program goals, application procedures, eligibility criteria, and maximum support levels

Challenge: Meaningful EHR User

- 1. Meaningful use** of “certified EHR technology”, including use of electronic prescribing
- 2. Information exchange**
- 3. Reporting on clinical quality measures**

eHealth Initiative Survey

- Conducted survey to assess perceptions about “meaningful use”
- Online survey conducted, not scientific
- Disseminated to eHI membership over course of 10 days
- 84 respondents from eHI membership; reopened survey since then for second round

Overview of Respondents

- Hospitals 24%
- Health Systems 18%
- Other Health Care Organizations 14%
- Physician Groups 11%
- Health Care Information Technology Suppliers 10%
- Quality Improvement Organizations 8%
- Employers 2%
- Consumers 2%
- Pharmaceutical Manufacturers 2%
- Public Health Organizations 2%
- Other

Complete definition in first rule versus broad definition over time

- HHS should try to develop a complete definition now - 43%
- HHS should develop a broad definition that is later refined -41%
- Not sure-1%
- Other-16%

All Providers Face Same Requirements Versus Flexibility

- It should be defined flexibly so that it is responsive to differences between various specialties and practice sites – 55%
- It should be defined so that all providers can face the same requirements - 45%

Requirement that providers use EHRs with specific percent of Medicare or Medicaid patients

- Yes, 0-25 percent- 4%
- Yes, 25-50 percent- 16%
- Yes, 50-75 percent- 11%
- Yes, 75-100 percent- 18%
- Yes, must be 100 percent – 13%
- No-17%
- Not sure 21%

Actions That Constitute Meaningful Use

- Electronic prescribing – 89%
- Warning of drug interactions 80%
- Viewing lab and imaging results 79%
- Computerized orders 74%
- Problem lists and diagnoses 73%
- Allergies 73%
- Integrating data from multiple sources 63%
- Clinical notes 60%
- Results management 60%
- Decision support 58%
- Orders sent electronically 57%
- Performance Measurement 54%
- Order entry 52%
- Health info and data 49%
- Clinical messaging 46%
- Reminders 42%
- Exchanging data with patients/consumers 35%
- Other 29%

Perform all functions (once defined) to qualify for incentives?

- Yes, providers should perform ALL functions to meet the requirement for use - 34%
- No, providers should only have to perform a certain number of functions -16%
- No, providers should only have to perform a defined set of basic functions; many functions should be optional until adoption and use of health IT is broader -49%

NCVHS Hearings on Meaningful Use

- Executive Subcommittee
- April 28-29th
- Woodley Park Marriot

Other Challenges

- “Boots on the ground”
 - Regional extension centers
 - AHQA survey of QIOs
- Functions v. outcomes
- Short-term v. long-term vision

HIT is at the plate

- HIT's time is now. Must prove that it can reduce cost and improve quality in relatively short order to avoid disenchantment
- Don't be Casey!

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright / The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light / And somewhere men are laughing, and little children shout / But there is no joy in Mudville — mighty Casey has struck out.