

PANELIST QUESTIONS

Clinical Documentation Hearing

Wednesday, February 13, 2013 9:00am – 5:00pm/Eastern Time

Panel 1: Role of Clinical Documentation for Clinicians

- How do you define clinical documentation?
- Identify challenges related to clinical documentation? What solutions or approaches do you recommend to address these challenges?
- What policies have you implemented to streamline the clinical documentation process? Are they working?
- How has/can technology evolve to streamline the documentation process?
- How do we change clinical documentation so that the elements can be captured as discrete data and yet maintain the narrative format that physicians have been trained to use for years?

Panel 2: Role of Clinical Documentation for Care Coordination across the Health Team

- How do you define clinical documentation?
- How is clinical documentation used to support care coordination?
- Which aspects of clinical documentation are most critical/important for care coordination?
- Within your organization, have you developed a formal or informal process to ensure that these elements are always captured?
- What challenges have you faced integrating data across care teams and settings? What solutions have you identified to address these challenges?
- Is there a tool, instrument, or artifact that will assist in coordination?
- Open Notes:
 - What were the benefits to patients of having access to clinical documentation/notes, as well as what the challenges were?
 - What policies have been implemented to make data useful to patients?

Panel 3: Role of Clinical Documentation for Secondary Uses

- Describe the disconnect between data needed for secondary use and data collected in an EHR (clinical documentation). What challenges do you face and what solutions have you identified to overcome them so that you can use data collected by providers in an EHR?
- Privacy policies vary from state to state and for instance in public health, among communicable diseases. What impact does this have on capturing data for secondary use?
- Discuss the role of inference in capturing data for secondary use of data (i.e. using data from clinical notes to infer a condition, etc.).

- How do you use data to address dynamic data needs? (i.e. influenza breakout, etc.)

Panel 4: Role of Clinical Documentation for Legal Purposes

- What is the current role of clinical documentation (particularly the progress note) for payment purposes?
- Do you foresee a change in the role of documentation (for billing, accreditation) under reform, when payment will no longer focus on verifying that transactions have occurred?
- What policies would you recommend to mitigate the risk of fraud or to avoid misrepresentation in clinical documentation?
- How has/can technology be used to improve the accuracy and efficiency of documentation? How can technology be used to guard against misrepresentation?