



Health Information Technology Advisory Committee COVID-19 Response

March 26, 2020

The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology



HITAC COVID-19 Response Planning

Today's Discussion:

- Part 1: Identify what the health IT community can do now to support COVID-19 response
- Part 2: Examine potential actions. Considerations include:
 - Can the item be acted on immediately by ONC?
 - Should the item be deferred for future consideration (i.e., shared with Annual Report Work Group for consideration for future HITAC actions)?

Next Steps:

- For items that can be acted on immediately by ONC, ONC will identify a potential charge for a new HITAC Task Force to address.
- For items that address issues managed by other federal partners, ONC will capture the items and share with those partners.

HITAC Input Received (not exhaustive)

Technology

- COVID-19 clinical decision support
- Testing and tracking systems
- Identification of risk indicators
- ADT Feed/system

Telemedicine/Telehealth

- Support increasing telehealth activity
- SDOH data to incorporate into remote monitoring and telehealth
- Concerns about cost sharing and reimbursement for tele-health services

Standards and Data

- Normalize data of suspected cases
- Leverage ongoing efforts (e.g., HIT developers)
- Review current standards, including FHIR
- Accessibility to researchers
- Review COVID-19 related data elements and code sets (e.g., SNOMED)
- Coding test orders and results to support interoperability
- Standardized reporting data elements and feeds to report capacity across all levels of care

HITAC Input Received (cont'd)

Privacy Matters

- HIPAA enforcement and data sharing rules and concerns
- Research needs, including standard IRBs
- Consideration of location data in EHI for pandemic situations
- Address existing authority for data privacy and data liquidity

Patient Matching

- National patient identifier
- National database for reported symptoms, testing, outcomes, treatments and risk factors

Policy

- Impact on interoperability rules
- Re-evaluate timelines for information exchange critical to public health crises
- Review timelines for new mandatory PIP reporting and other PIP measures
- Suspension of quality measure reporting requirements and timelines (MIPS and PIP)
- Delay education and operations testing period before implementation of PAMA
- Evaluate public health use case under TEFCA
- Evaluate whether EHRs and EHI should encompass travel history as part of USCDI
- Congressional proposals and activity

HITAC Input Received (cont'd)

Public Health

- Review prior standards committee discussion of Zika related efforts
- Identify a clearly defined value set for exposure status
- Optimal electronic case reporting mechanisms that can be deployed rapidly
- Disease surveillance via labs and EHRs

Other

- Review and collate various COVID-19 online resources
- Standard methods for communicating testing status/results
- Workforce concerns and staffing requirements
- PPE and ventilator supply/demand availability, data feed

Information Exchange

- HIEs temporarily designated as public/local health authorities
- Allow for access to HINs in cases of extreme emergencies
- Advance ability to share test results
- Consider how testing and results data will be incorporated into HINs
- Allow access to data by epidemiologists

Discussion – Part 1

- Identify what the health IT community can do now to support COVID-19 response
 - What are some specific examples and concrete actions?

Discussion – Part 2

- Examine potential actions
- Considerations include:
 - Can the item be acted on immediately by ONC?
 - Should the item be deferred for future consideration (i.e., shared with Annual Report WG for consideration for future HITAC actions)?



The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology

Contact ONC



Phone: 202-690-7151



Health IT Feedback Form:

<https://www.healthit.gov/form/healthit-feedback-form>



Twitter: @onc_healthIT



LinkedIn: Search “Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology”



**Subscribe to our weekly eblast
at [healthit.gov](https://www.healthit.gov) for the latest updates!**

Federal COVID-19 Resources - not exhaustive (as of March 24, 2020)

- **CDC**
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/testing-in-us.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **CMS** - <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>
- **FDA** - <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-issues/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- **HHS** - <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html>
- **NIH** - <https://www.nih.gov/>
- **ONC** - [New ISA page](#) - Interoperability for COVID-19 and ONC [COVID resource page](#)
- **U.S Government** - <https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>

Relevant Health IT Community Activities – not exhaustive (as of March 24, 2020)

- [ONC Public Health Task Force recommendations on Zika](#) (2017)
- [COVID-19 Open Research Dataset](#)
- [COVIDcheck](#)
- [Health Intersections – COVID Value Sets](#)
- [Pandemic response hackathon](#)
- [Telehealth Resource Center](#)