Health Information Technology Advisory Committee
COVID-19 Response

March 26, 2020
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

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

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
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)?
Contact ONC

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

- CDC


- NIH - https://www.nih.gov/

- ONC - New ISA page - Interoperability for COVID-19 and ONC COVID resource page

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