Health Information Technology Advisory Committee

U.S. Core Data for Interoperability Task Force 2021 Virtual Meeting

Meeting Notes | September 21, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

Executive Summary

The focus of the U.S. Core Data for Interoperability Task Force 2021 (USCDI TF 2021) is to review feedback from the TF's presentation to the HITAC on September 9, 2021.

There were no public comments submitted by phone, but there was a discussion in the chat feature in Adobe Connect.

Agenda

03:00 p.m.	Call to Order/Roll Call
03:05 p.m.	HITAC Meeting Debrief and Review of HITAC Amendments to Task Force Recommendations/New HITAC Recommendations
03:25 a.m.	Public Comment
03:30 p.m.	Adjourn

Call to Order

Mike Berry, Designated Federal Officer, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Roll Call

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Steven Lane, Sutter Health, Co-Chair
Ricky Bloomfield, Apple
Hans Buitendijk, Cerner
Jim Jirjis, HCA Healthcare
John Kilbourne, Department of Veterans Health Affairs
Clem McDonald, National Library of Medicine
Mark Savage, Savage Consulting
Michelle Schreiber, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Sasha TerMaat, Epic
Sheryl Turney, Anthem, Inc.
Daniel Vreeman, RTI International

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Grace Cordovano, Enlightening Results
Ken Kawamoto, University of Utah Health
Les Lenert, Medical University of South Carolina

Aaron Miri, Baptist Health
Brett Oliver, Baptist Health
Abby Sears, OCHIN
Andrew Truscott, Accenture
Denise Webb, Indiana Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center

ONC STAFF

Michael Berry, Branch Chief, Policy Coordination, Office of the Policy (ONC); Designated Federal Officer
Al Taylor, Medical Informatics Officers, Office of Technology (ONC)

General Themes

TOPIC: HITAC MEETING DEBRIEF AND REVIEW OF HITAC AMENDMENTS TO TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS/NEW HITAC RECOMMENDATIONS

USCDI TF members discussed the TF's presentation to the HITAC at its September 9, 2021, meeting and reviewed the amendments and new recommendations from the HITAC.

Key Specific Points of Discussion

TOPIC: USCDI TF 2021 HOUSEKEEPING

The USCDI TF 2021 co-chair, Steven Lane, welcomed TF members and members of the public to the meeting, briefly reviewed the agenda, and highlighted the following housekeeping items:

- USCDI TF 2021 meeting materials, past meeting summaries, presentations, audio recordings, and final transcriptions are posted on the website dedicated to the TF located at https://www.healthit.gov/hitac/committees/us-core-data-interoperability-task-force-2021

TOPIC: HITAC Meeting Debrief and Review of HITAC Amendments to Task Force Recommendations/New HITAC Recommendations

Steven explained that, during the summer, the USCDI TF submitted its Phase 1 and Phase 2 recommendations to the HITAC, and the HITAC voted to transmit them to the National Coordinator for Health IT. At the September 9, 2021, meeting of the HITAC, the TF presented its Phase 3 report and recommendations, which entails developing recommended ONC priorities for the USCDI Version 3 (USCDI v3) submission cycle. Work on draft USCDI v3 recommendations includes a focus on items that have been designated as Level 2 in the ONC New Data Element and Class (ONDEC) Submission System, as well as other items at lower levels or that are being submitted in the USCDI v3 cycle.

Steven explained that, at the meeting, HITAC members voted against the USCDI TF's package as a whole and went back to review and discuss several recommendations. Following a second vote, the HITAC approved the recommendations report for transmittal to the National Coordinator for Health IT. He displayed the following HITAC amendments to the USCDI TF 2021's recommendations, which included in the TF's Phase 3 Recommendations Report (with HITAC Amendments) document. They included:

- Adding "transitions of care" as a high priority use case listed under Recommendation 1
- Removing "Functional Status/disability" from Recommendation 3 and the addition of a new bullet point, "Disability Status," and "limitations" to the bullet "Functional Status."
- Creating a new HITAC Recommendation (10), which was added to the final report and included:
  - ONC should charge the HITAC to convene the USCDI Task Force to discuss the HITAC recommendation that ONC support a social model of disability including the advancement of relevant data elements. *

Note: the recommendation was not discussed or recommended by the USCDI TF but was discussed during the HITAC meeting on September 9, 2021, with the committee voting to add the recommendation.

DISCUSSION:

- Steven summarized a comment Terry O'Malley, a previous co-chair of the USCDI TF, shared regarding Phase 3 Recommendation 1. He suggested adding "transitions of care" to the list of high priority use cases. The HITAC supported this addition and approved the change.

- Steven explained that the HITAC held a lively discussion around the terminology used around functional status and disability and this wording was changed in several areas under the TF's Phase 3 Recommendation 3 due to feedback from HITAC members who are advocates for patients, families, and caregivers. The HITAC also created a new recommendation (#10) that was created from the work of the TF but not specifically recommended by the TF. Steven clarified that the TF would likely not be charged with this recommendation, though it was voted on by the HITAC.

  o Mike Berry explained that this recommendation, along with the others from the TF, would be reviewed by ONC. A decision will be communicated as to whether the USCDI TF or another TF would be tasked with this work (or both).

  o Mark Savage, who has expertise on the topic and consulted on the data elements/classes, shared background information on the list of high priority data elements that the Gravity Project shared with the TF. On this list, Functional Status and Cognitive Status were divided into two separate elements, because they represent two significant components of disability status and have been tracked separately. He explained that the use of the term "disability" has evolved within the community, and he shared feedback he gathered from the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the Disability Rights and Educational Defense Fund (DREDF). Representatives from both organizations acknowledged that the word "disability" is used frequently but also shared that the assessments underestimate the number of disabled people for a variety of reasons. Mark added that CMS's assessments do not use the wording "disability/disabled." The organizational experts also shared that, though disability status overlaps with functional status and cognitive status, there are several things that are not included (e.g., mental health issues, autism, and speech and communication impairments). Finally, he discussed differences between the medical and social models and observed that there are environmental and social factors that provide a great deal of information about health status.

  o Dan Vreeman explained that he has been deeply involved in this field for much of his career and commented that the current proposal in the USCDI is based on the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). It is a framework and classification of health and health-related domains which includes helpful constructs for describing functioning and its applicability across body functions, body structures, activities, and participation. It provides a framework for understanding mental functioning, as well as physical, for an individual. He voiced his support for the updates and new recommendation but asked that the specific language ("social model") be updated.

  o Clem McDonald discussed problems around getting measures of functional status in routine care and added that Medicare does capture this information via their forms. He cautioned against placing a greater time and data collection burden on providers. He suggested that the TF add standard questions around drug and alcohol use/abuse to the priority data elements in future work.

  o Steven thanked TF members for their comments and added that there is value in having functional/cognitive status standardized and transmitted via the USCDI. He agreed with ONC's decision to review the recommendations and then reengage the TF at a later date.

Action Items

TF members were encouraged to continue to review meeting materials on the TF website at
https://www.healthit.gov/hitac/committees/us-core-data-interoperability-task-force-2021

Public Comment

Steven welcomed members of the public and encouraged them to submit comments within the chat feature in Adobe and/or by phone during the public comment period.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA PHONE

There were no public comments received via phone.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ADOBE CONNECT

Mike Berry (ONC): Welcome to the USCDI Task Force.

Jim Jirjis: Jim Jirjis signing on

Clem McDonald: I am connected, Clem

Steven Lane: Whoever put us on hold briefly just now, your system played us muzak. Thanks for picking back up!
Matt Elrod: https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health

Daniel Vreeman: Congratulations on such a robust and substantial set of recommendations from this Task Force, and a special thanks to Steven and Leslie for your leadership along the way!

Maria D Moen: May I ask if there is consideration as to including "living will" and "care experience Preferences"; in the data classes that now include two other advance care planning classes?

Resources

USCDI TF 2021 Website
USCDI TF 2021 – September 21, 2021, Meeting Agenda
USCDI TF 2021 – September 21, 2021, Meeting Slides
USCDI TF 2021 – September 21, 2021, Webpage
USCDI TF Meeting Calendar Webpage

Adjournment

On behalf of ONC, Mike thanked all USCDI TF 2021 members for their participation in the current cycle of the TF. Steven thanked everyone, including Al Taylor and ONC, the Accel team, and TF members, for their work, time, and participation. Al Taylor voiced his appreciation for the efforts the TF co-chairs and members contributed during meetings and offline work. He commented that his feedback was guided by his desire for the TF to create recommendations that would be meaningful and useful for ONC, and he thanked them for their patience. TF members thanked Steven Lane.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m. E.T.