

The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology



ONC Policy and Program Update

Health IT Policy Committee Meeting
January 14, 2014

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1. HIT Safety
2. Patient Generated Health Data, Technical Expert Panel
3. Anti-Kickback Statute safe harbor and Stark Law exception
4. National HIE Governance Forum
5. 2015 Edition of Certified EHR Technology
6. ONC items for review

- **SAFER Guides will be released this month**
 - Risk assessment tools developed from the latest evidence of HIT Patient Safety
 - Help healthcare organizations assess the safety and safe use of EHRs in critical areas
 - Support collaboration to optimize safety of EHRs
 - Stakeholders include providers, developers, and PSOs
- **Guide to Identifying and Addressing Unsafe Conditions Associated with Health IT**
 - To help clinicians and other EHR users address health IT-related safety issues, ONC has posted a [guide](#) and [slide deck](#)
 - Aim to help healthcare organizations and PSOs improve reporting of unsafe conditions associated with health IT
 - A webinar was held on January 10, 2014

- Under [guidance](#) issued in July, ONC-ACBs are required to conduct surveillance (including live surveillance in the field) of CEHRT
 - Update: ONC-ACBs submitted their annual surveillance plans for calendar year 2014 and began conducting surveillance in accordance with those plans this month.
- ONC issued guidance (an [FAQ](#)) clarifying that an ONC-ACB's authorized surveillance of CEHRT (including safety-related capabilities) qualifies as a “health oversight activity” under HIPAA

Patient Generated Health Data Technical Expert Panel (TEP) – Final Report



- Goal: identify good practices to enhance patients input to their care
- National eHealth Collaborative on behalf of ONC
 - Convened the TEP
 - Conducted a focused environmental scan
- Reports
 - Phase 1 report on good practices and policy guidance for PGHD-related recommendations in MU Stage 3
 - Phase 2 report addresses how practices can prepare, prioritize information, and incorporate PGHD into the practice, and focus beyond MU
 - Resulted in three conclusions

- OIG and CMS have released final rules revising the Anti-Kickback Statute safe harbor and Stark Law exception, respectively, for certain arrangements involving the donation of EHRs
- Encourage widespread implementation of EHRs and allow smaller provider groups to accept gifts of EHR software without violating the law
- Extend the exception until December 31, 2021
- Revised interoperability requirements aligned with ONC certification program
 - [OIG final rule](#)
 - [CMS final rule](#)

- National HIE Governance Forum has concluded
- [Resources and Final Report published](#)
 - Identity Management educational resource
 - Trust Framework whitepaper
 - Preliminary HIE Certification and Accreditation Landscape
 - Final report

- 2015 Edition of certification criteria
 - Marks a new approach to certification
 - Allows for certification criteria to be updated more frequently
 - Improve on the 2014 Edition
 - Responsive to stakeholder feedback
 - Address issues
 - Reference updated standards and implementation guides
 - Voluntary, participants in the EHR Incentive Programs won't need to upgrade
 - EHR technology certified to the 2014 Edition will not need to recertify

- Issue briefs posted
 - [Medication adherence](#)
 - [Putting the person at the center](#)
- Upcoming items for review
 - Federal Health IT Strategic Plan
 - Presented at the February 4th HITPC
 - 2014 HITPC workplan

Questions?

