

Health IT Standards Committee

A Public Advisory Body on Health Information Technology to the National Coordinator for Health IT



Certified Technology Comparison (CTC) Task Force

Cris Ross, co-chair

Anita Somplasky, co-chair

December 10, 2015

Membership



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First Name	Last name	Organization
Cris	Ross	Mayo Clinic
Anita	Somplasky	Quality Insights
Christine	Kennedy	Lawrence and Memorial Hospital
Christopher	Tashjian	Vibrant Health Family Clinics
David	Schlossman	Missouri Cancer Associates
Joe	Wivoda	National Rural Health Resource Center
John	Travis	Cerner Corporation
Jorge	Ferrer	Veterans Health Administration
Liz	Johnson	Tenet Healthcare
Steven	Stack	American Medical Association
Dawn	Heisey-Grove	ONC (staff lead)



(3) STUDY AND REPORT ON THE **FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO COMPARE CERTIFIED EHR TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.**—

(A) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to examine *the feasibility of establishing one or more mechanisms* to **assist providers in comparing and selecting certified EHR technology products**. Such mechanisms may include—

(i) a website with aggregated results of surveys of meaningful EHR users on the functionality of certified EHR technology products to enable such users to directly compare the functionality and other features of such products; and

(ii) information from vendors of certified products that is made publicly available in a standardized format. The aggregated results of the surveys described in clause (i) may be made available through contracts with physicians, hospitals, or other organizations that maintain such comparative information described in such clause.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on mechanisms that would assist providers in comparing and selecting certified EHR technology products. **The report shall include information on the benefits of, and resources needed to develop and maintain, such mechanisms.**



- The taskforce is charged with providing recommendations on the benefits of, and resources needed to develop and maintain, a certified health IT comparison tool. This taskforce will:
 - Identify the different health IT needs for providers across the adoption and implementation spectrum, with particular focus on providers with limited resources and/or lower adoption rates
 - Identify user needs for a comparison tool
 - Identify gaps in the current tool marketplace, and the barriers to addressing those gaps

Task Force Workplan



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Meeting Date	Meeting Tasks
Tue, Nov 17, 2015 9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of charge and plan • Initial considerations from committee • Overview of market research to date
Tues, Dec 1, 2015 12:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review comparison framework
Thurs, Dec 3, 2015 – Administrative Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine virtual hearing questions and panelists
<i>December 10, 2015 - Draft Recommendations to HITSC</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Status of current TF work</i> • <i>Expectations for what will be learned from the virtual hearing</i>
Wed, Dec 30 2015 9:30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review TF comparison framework feedback</i> • <i>Begin drafting recommendations</i>
Thu, Jan 7, 2016 10:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Virtual Hearing</i>
Fri, Jan 8, 2016 12:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize hearing, begin drafting recommendations
Fri, Jan, 15 2016 11:00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Virtual Hearing</i>
Tue, Jan, 19, 2016 12:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize recommendations
<i>January 20, 2016 - Final Recs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Joint HITPC/HITSC Presentation</i>

Virtual Hearing: Proposed Panels



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The Task Force will hold two virtual hearings on January 7 and 15 to hear from diverse experts. The hearings will inform final recommendations to the HITPC and HITSC.

Panel I	<p>Primary care providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inclusive of both non-adopters and experienced users, primary care providers (physicians and advance practice providers), nursing staff, practice managers
Panel II	<p>Specialists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health care providers who provide non-primary care services. May include physician specialists, non-physician providers of care (ex. OT/PT/dentistry), nursing staff, and practice managers
Panel III	<p>Certified health IT developers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developers of certified EHRs and other health IT
Panel IV	<p>Health IT comparison and informational tool vendors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vendors who currently provide comparison and/or informational health IT selection tools• ACBs/ATLs who provide CHPL data
Panel V	<p>Quality Improvement and Alternative Payment Model (APMs) Capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providers and/or vendors who can speak to the challenges of finding certified health IT products that have applicable CQMs or advanced health IT functionalities necessary to meet APM and quality reporting needs

Potential Panel I Questions



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Panel I

Primary care providers

- Inclusive of both non-adopters and experienced users, primary care providers (physicians and advance practice providers), nursing staff, practice managers

- If a comparison tool was established, would you use it? If you were to use it, is there a form or format that you would find most helpful?
- How important is it for you to know whether the product can be integrated with the hospital or other health care environments?
- *Current users of health IT:*
 - If you are currently using health IT and contemplating making a change, what are the factors you would entertain to accomplish that and what resources would be necessary?
 - What information did you wish you had known when comparing certified health IT products?
 - Did you use any comparison tools to help you select an EHR? If yes, comment on the efficacy of those tools. If no, why not?
- *Non-adopters:*
 - What comparative information would you need that might remove the barrier to you to make the decision to adopt?
 - What information do you need to make your decision about which product(s) to purchase?

Potential Panel II Questions



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Panel II

Specialists

- Health care providers who provide non-primary care services. May include physician specialists, non-physician providers of care (ex. OT/PT/dentistry), nursing staff, and practice managers

- Were you able to access information about health IT products to support specialty-specific needs?
 - What was (or is, for non-adopters) lacking in your ability to identify whether the products supported your specialty needs? (ex. specialty registry submission, supporting quality measurement, clinical documentation requirements of specialty, or specialty practice-specific)
- If a comparison tool was established, would you use it? If you were to use it, is there a form or format that you would find most helpful?
- If you are currently using an EHR and contemplating making a change, what are the factors you would entertain to accomplish that and what resources would be necessary?
- In hindsight, what information should you have had when you were selecting a health IT product?

Potential Panel III Questions



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Panel III

Certified health IT developers

- Developers of certified EHRs and other health IT

- What specific modules are relevant for the typical ambulatory office, and how do you package those features?
 - Does this packaging change for specialty practices?
- What should be standard features for comparison?
 - Ex. technical methods for deployment (are they hosted, do they depend on local implementation or management, basics of licensing approach)
- Does a vendor comparison tool foster competition and innovation?
- Should information on the market focus of the developer (i.e. do they have experience with providers like me) be available for comparison? If yes, what would you want the developer to provide?

Potential Panel IV Questions



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Panel IV

Health IT comparison and informational tool vendors, other sources of comparative data

- Vendors who currently provide comparison and/or informational health IT selection tools
- ACBs/ATLs who provide CHPL data

- What is the best way to develop a tool that meets the needs of different provider groups?
- What are the barriers to you completely meeting the health IT product comparison needs anticipated by MACRA?
 - Are there data that you would like to include in your product that are not currently available to you? How will that benefit the provider?
- What kinds of health IT-related APM or care coordination capabilities do you think should be available for comparison?
- *For ACBs/ATLs:*
 - What information from the testing reports should be made available for vendor comparison?
 - What information from the disclosures should be made available for vendor comparison?
 - Are there limitations in what can be shared?

Potential Panel V Questions



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Panel V

Quality Improvement and Alternative Payment Model (APMs) Capabilities

- Providers and/or vendors who can speak on the challenges of finding certified health IT products that have the applicable CQMs or advanced health IT functionalities necessary to meet APM and quality reporting needs
- How might a comparison tool be implemented that would guide providers to select certified health IT components necessary for quality improvement and/or APM participation?
- What specific health IT modules are relevant for APM participation?
- What information do providers need to know when selecting certified health IT to be used for quality measurement reporting?
- What kinds of health IT-related APM or care coordination capabilities do you think should be available for comparison?