



The Office of the National Coordinator for  
Health Information Technology



# ONC Policy and Program Update

Health IT Standards Committee Meeting  
November 13, 2013

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Putting the **I** in Health **IT**  
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# **Policy Committee Updates**

- Accountable Care Hearing – December 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Obtain an understanding of ACO HIT needs
  - Learn about innovative uses of HIT that could be shared broadly
  - Receive input on whether/how modular certification of HIT focused on population health management and interoperability standards could help ACOs
- New HITPC members appointed by GAO
  - David Kotz, PhD
  - Devin Mann, MD
  - Troy Seagondollar, RN

# **Certification / Adoption Workgroup Update**

- Recommend a process for prioritizing health IT capabilities for voluntary EHR certification that would improve interoperability across a greater number of care settings
- Recommendations shall take into account previously adopted ONC certification criteria and standards and identify the key health IT capabilities needed in care settings by providers who are ineligible to receive EHR incentive payments under the HITECH Act

**Step 1:** Recommend a process that could be used to identify and prioritize certification criteria for health IT that is used by “ineligible” providers and for which a voluntary ONC certification program would be helpful

**Step 2:** Recommend a specific application of this process for EHRs used in long-term/post-acute care (LTPAC) and behavioral health (BH) settings

## Structure:

- Certification & Adoption Workgroup will develop recommendations
- C/A WG will coordinate with HITSC and S&I Framework
- **John Derr** and **Stan Huff** will participate as HITSC WG liaisons to coordinate between the HITPC C/A WG and HITSC
- Both LTPAC and BH experts will present to the C/A WG and will provide an update of relevant S&I Framework standards work

## Timeline: October 2013 – March 2014

- Preliminary Recommendations due to HITPC – February 2014
- Final Recommendations to HITPC (**Marc, Larry**) and HITSC (**Marc, John**) – March 2014

# Safety Update



- ONC has engaged MITRE (a federally funded research and development center)
- Assessing the feasibility of and options for establishing a public-private partnership that would provide
  - Infrastructure
  - Governance
  - Resources for engaging stakeholders and building consensus
    - Aimed at shared goals and strategies for optimizing HIT safety and maximizing the potential of HIT to improve patient safety.
- Working closely with AHRQ to develop plans for the public-private process, including alignment of AHRQ's research activities

- FDA, in consultation with ONC and FCC, working on a report to be submitted to Congress by January 2014
- Recommending an appropriate risk-based regulatory framework for HIT
  - Based upon recommendations from the HITPC's FDASIA workgroup

- In October ONC began two separate projects to perform aggregate analysis of HIT-related adverse event data in PSO databases
- Working to identify types, frequencies, and underlying causes of HIT-related events in order to support public-private efforts to develop evidence-based measures for improving HIT patient safety
- First results of these analyses are expected in March 2014
- Based on the initial results, there is an opportunity to request additional “targeted” analysis, which would be due in June 2014

- Under a contract with ONC, the Joint Commission is conducting voluntary investigations of HIT-related events at hospitals/provider sites
- Concurrently, TJC is performing an in-depth analysis of HIT-related events in its de-identified sentinel event database in order to increase our understanding of the role of HIT in patient safety
  - Based on these activities, TJC will publish a research paper and develop educational materials that will be made widely available
  - Preliminary results expected by January 2014

- ONC has worked on the SAFER Guides
  - Risk assessment tools developed based on the latest evidence of HIT Patient Safety
  - Providing a strong foundation for improvement efforts
- The SAFER Guides will help healthcare organizations assess the safety and safe use of EHRs in critical areas

Questions?

