



Health IT Policy Committee

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

April 14, 2011

Farzad Mostashari, MD, ScM
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Mostashari:

The HIT Policy Committee (Committee) gave the following broad charge to the PCAST Report Workgroup (Workgroup):

Broad Charge for the PCAST Report Workgroup:

- Synthesize and analyze the public comments and expert testimony regarding the PCAST report (the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology report dated December 8, 2010);
- Discuss the implications of the report and its specific recommendations to ONC on current ONC strategies;
- Assess the feasibility and impact of the PCAST report on ONC programs;
- Elaborate on how these recommendations could be integrated into the ONC strategic framework.

Since January 2011, the Workgroup conducted a number of public meetings, a public hearing, and a Request for Comments to the general public. On April 13, 2011, the Workgroup reported and discussed its findings with the Committee, which were subsequently accepted.

The attached letter provides analysis and suggested pathways to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on how the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) can help achieve the end goals described by the PCAST Report for health information technology capabilities in the United States.

Discussion

Attached is a letter outlining and describing the actions and analysis of the Workgroup. The Workgroup's analysis is presented in the letter in the following sections:

- A. **Summary of the PCAST Report:** This section describes the observations made by the PCAST Workgroup regarding the overall themes of the PCAST report and the specific recommendations made to ONC by PCAST.
- B. **Public Comment and Hearing:** This section summarizes what the Workgroup believes are key messages from the public regarding the recommendations made in the PCAST

report as represented through public comments and through the Workgroup's public hearing.

- C. **ONC Actions and End State:** This section elaborates on the Workgroup's analysis of the feasibility of achieving the end goals described by PCAST in relation to ongoing ONC activities.
- D. **The First Steps on "The Path Forward":** This section describes various pathways that ONC programs can take to move toward PCAST end goals within the framework of Meaningful Use Stage 2 and Stage 3.
- E. **Summary Comment:** In this section, the workgroup summarizes the report.

The consensus of the HIT Policy Committee on April 13, 2011, was to accept the letter from the PCAST Report Workgroup, as presented.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this analysis and path forward on exchange of health information, and look forward to discussing next steps.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Paul Tang
Vice Chair, HIT Policy Committee