NwHIN Power Team Charter: Classification Criteria for Standards Evaluation

Purpose

The workgroup will provide guidance and feedback to ONC for the development of objective criteria for evaluating the readiness of specifications for adoption as national standards.

Goals

The workgroup's goal is to support the development of comprehensive, objective, and, to the extent practicable, quantitative criteria for evaluating technical specifications as candidates for national adoption as standards into the following classes:

1) Ready for national adoption;
2) Emerging (toward readiness); or
3) Pilot/domain specific (specifications that could further develop or merge to become "Emerging").

The workgroup will support and guide the development by providing feedback and recommendations on classification approach and evaluation process/structure. The criteria and process identified will allow for a granular and robust methodology for the assessment of standards and specifications, and the development of a portfolio of ONC-recognized standardization activities.

Objectives

The workgroup will leverage and build upon the prior work and recommendations of the HITSC NwHIN Power Team to further support the identification of objective, quantitative (to the extent practicable) criteria for evaluating and classifying any technical specification – including vocabulary, content, transport, services, and security specifications. The following classification criteria, identified and defined in prior work, should be reviewed and may be modified for greater clarity, broader applicability, and amenability to quantitative metrics:

1. Need (low, moderate, high)
2. Maturity of Specification (low, moderate, high)
3. Maturity of Underlying Technology (emerging, maturing, mature, declining)
4. Deployment/Operational Complexity (low, moderate, high)
5. Market Adoption (low, moderate, high)

ONC will perform initial research and development, and will present findings and recommendations to the NwHIN Power Team regarding potential classification approaches, quantitative metrics, and evaluation process/structure. The workgroup will review and provide the following in an iterative manner:

1. Feedback and recommendations on a set of use cases the classification process and metrics need to support.

2. Feedback and recommendations on appropriateness, based on industry best practices, of potential classification schemes developed and presented by ONC
3. Feedback and recommendations on quantitative classification criteria initially researched, developed, and presented by ONC
4. Feedback and recommendations on the process and structure as developed and presented by ONC for the evaluation and classification of specifications utilizing the criteria and metrics identified
5. Validation and approval of the draft approach and process as developed and presented by ONC, with inputs from the Power Team.

Success Criteria

A draft recommendation developed in collaboration with ONC and approved by the NwHIN Power Team. The draft will describe the classification scheme, quantitative metrics, and evaluation and classification process based on the Power Team's recommended objective criteria and that provides for a more granular and quantitative classification and that can be applied to any technical specification.

A final recommendation from the NwHIN Power Team approved by the HITSC. The final recommendation may be delayed beyond the timeframe documented below dependent on amount of changes required based on feedback from HITSC on the draft recommendations.

Timeframe

Draft to be approved by the NwHIN Power Team prior to April HITSC meetings.

Exclusions

Guidance and recommendations should not be solely based on Exchange or Direct, or on any other specific set of specifications, but should be applicable to the evaluation and classification of <u>any technical specification or standard, existing or future</u>.

Supporting Material

NwHIN-PT_HITSC(final).ppt – dated September 28, 2011