Role of Standards in the U.S. National Healthcare IT Program

Open Forum for Standards Developers

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The National Health IT Effort

Nation-Wide coordination of policies, resources and priorities – ONC Initiatives and Contracts for unifying regions

- The AHIC Community serves as hub for identifying breakthrough opportunities
- CCHIT focuses on developing a mechanism for certification of health care IT products
- HITSP bringing together all relevant stakeholders to identify appropriate IT standards
- HISPC is a partnership focused on addressing variations in business policy and state law that affect privacy and security
- NHIN focuses on interoperability pilots starting in 2006

**The American Health Information Community**

- Chaired by HHS Secretary Leavitt
- Seven federal agency representatives
- Six health industry members
- One IT industry member (Intel)
- One employer (Pepsi)
- One state health department member (IN)
Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP)

- The HITSP is a group organized to harmonize the standards used to exchange health data in the United States
  
  - The Panel brings together experts from across the health care IT community
  
  - The Panel’s activities are led by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
  
  - Cooperative partnerships have been and are being developed between and among certain standards developers
Membership and Board Representation

- A total of 155 organizations participate in HITSP
  - 17 Standards Development Organizations
  - 114 non-SDOs (including clinicians, providers, safety net providers, vendors, purchasers, payers, public health professionals, and researchers)
  - 15 government agencies
  - 9 consumer organizations

- HITSP Board of Directors also represents multiple stakeholders
  - 8 representatives from SDOs
  - 9 representatives from non-SDOs
  - 4 representatives from government (appointed by ONCHIT)
  - 2 representative from consumer organizations
HITSP Panel Process

- Customer(s) issue a “Harmonization Request”

- HITSP Actions
  - Technical Committees analyze requirements, identify candidate standards, and highlight standard gaps and overlaps
  - Gaps are forwarded to SDOs for their guidance as to emerging candidate standards or new standards requirements
  - Overlaps are resolved through SDO interactions
  - HITSP (Full Panel) selects the final set of standards
    - Ratification of standards recommend by the TCs
Process

- Technical Committees work with SDOs and others to produce implementation level guidance
  - Certain aspects, especially when multiple SDOs are involved, will be created by other groups for the Panel

- HITSP work products will be delivered to AHIC for endorsement

- Certification requirements will be based on HITSP implementation guides
Coordinating Committees

- Committee on Harmonization Readiness
  - Develop appropriateness criteria
  - Lynn Gilbertson, convener

- Committee on Business sustainability
  - Develop a business model that will sustain the HITSP for as long as standards harmonization and coordination is necessary
  - Steve Lieber, convener

- Committee on International Standards Landscape
  - Lessons learned from the UK, Canada, Sweden, etc.
  - Bill Braithwaithe, convener
September 2006: HITSP Deliverables

- Specific implementation level guidance – “Interoperability Specifications” for four AHIC breakthrough areas

- Interoperability specifications will:
  - Define the standards and specific implementation context for those standards
  - Describe specific value sets for unambiguous data exchange and system-to-system interaction
  - Provide the necessary instructions to implement the specific standards in commercial and self-developed systems
Questions and Answers

Dr. Halamka

For more information
www.hitsp.org