HITSP and ARRA

John D. Halamka, MD | April 2, 2009

The Urgency

❑ The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contains numerous technology and privacy provisions with aggressive timelines for completion.

❑ Many of these ARRA milestones are related to standards and the work of the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel

ARRA Specifics

1. Technology to protect privacy and security

2. A nationwide health information infrastructure that supports exchange of health information

3. The use of certified health record for each person in the US by 2014

4. Technologies to account for disclosures of health information

ARRA Specifics

5. The use of certified electronic health records to improve the quality of health care, such as by promoting the coordination of health care and improving continuity of health care among health care providers, by reducing medical errors, by improving population health, by reducing health disparities, by reducing chronic disease, and by advancing research and education.

6. Technologies that allow individually identifiable health information to be rendered unusable, unreadable, or indecipherable to unauthorized individual

7. The use of electronic systems to ensure the comprehensive collection of patient demographic data

8. Technologies that address the needs of children and other vulnerable populations

The Vision

❑ In order to meet these statutory requirements, HITSP must focus the energies of its volunteers, staff, and leadership on these areas for the next 90 days.

❑ HITSP's "accepted" products to date will be leveraged to create new streamlined electronically published standards guides organized around the ARRA EHR interoperability requirements.

❑ The end result will be much more compact, easy to implement, and flexible implementation guidance which supports the meaningful use of EHRs and protection of privacy.

The Next Steps

- ❑ This focus on ARRA will result in HITSP reprioritizing some of its existing 2009 work for 90 days. Some efforts (e.g., SSA, Clinical Research, Interoperability Showcase, Quality Measures, NHIN and CCHIT coordination, etc.) are expected to continue on a non-interference basis.

- ❑ Program Management, ONC, TC Leadership and Volunteers will finalize a work plan over the next few weeks

Communication

- Communication will be key to this effort

- HIMSS09, Friday emails, the HITSP Website, Conference calls, Meetings, and ongoing efforts of ECO Committee will keep us all informed and involved

- Thank you for your support!