The HITECH Act and Meaningful Use – Implications for Population and Public Health

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Meaningful Use for Public Health Professionals: Basic Training
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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Your Challenge During This Session: Create a Game

- The end of this session will include a brief review game.
- You are a member of the “Clue Crew.”
- As you are taking notes, try to identify a multiple choice question.
  - Three choices for answer (A, B, C)
  - Write it on an index card.
Session Overview

- Overview of the HITECH Act
- Overview of the Meaningful Use Program
- Implications for population health and public health
OVERVIEW OF THE HITECH ACT
HITECH

Health

Information

Technology for

Economic and

Clinical

Health Act of 2009
HITECH Vision

Goal: To improve the health of Americans and the performance of the nation’s health system through health information technology (HIT)

An important component of health reform

Way to harness the full potential of digital technology
HITECH Goals

Improve *quality, safety, efficiency, and reduce health disparities*

Engage patients and families

Improve care coordination

Ensure adequate privacy & security protections for personal health information

Improve Population and Public Health
Steps in Promoting the National Health IT Agenda

Establish standards, technology services, and trust to support interoperability
- Develop nationwide standards for information exchange
- Support research and development of new technology
- Provide guidance in nationwide health IT standards and agreements

Stimulate adoption of interoperable electronic health records
- Provide financial incentives
- Make sure all certified records systems have the capability to exchange information among disparate systems

Promote the meaningful use of EHRs to improve quality and efficiency
- Assist eligible professionals during selection and implementation
- Stimulate information exchange resources within and across
- Showcase community and national models
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) Programs Designed to Support Achievement of Meaningful Use

Areas of Support

- Technical Assistance
- Health Information Exchange
- Breakthrough Examples
- Human Resources
ONC Programs Designed to Support Achievement of Meaningful Use

Regional Extension Center Program:
• ONC funded 70 regional extension centers that will help providers with EHR vendor selection, implementation and workflow redesign
ONC Programs Designed to Support Achievement of Meaningful Use

State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Program:

- Funding and technical assistance to states to support eligible professionals in achieving HIE requirements
- Nationwide Health Information Network Activities
- Expanded definitions, specifications and sample implementations to support exchange to achieve meaningful use
ONC Programs Designed to Support Achievement of Meaningful Use

**Beacon Communities Program**
- Demonstration communities involving clinicians, hospitals and consumers
- Showing how EHRs can achieve breakthrough improvements in health care

**Strategic Health IT Advanced Research Projects (SHARP)**
- Research focused
- Addresses problems that have impeded adoption
ONC Programs Designed to Support Achievement of Meaningful Use

**Workforce Training Programs**
- Several distinct programs that are supporting the education of up to 45,000 new health IT workers to support implementation

Human Resources
THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID EHR INCENTIVE PROGRAMS
What is Meaningful Use?

- **Meaningful use is using certified EHR technology to:**
  - Improve quality, safety, efficiency, and reduce health disparities
  - Engage patients and families in their health care
  - Improve care coordination
  - Improve population and public health

...all the while maintaining privacy and security.
A Conceptual Approach to Meaningful Use

2011
Data capture and sharing

2013
Advanced clinical processes

2015
Improved outcomes
Medicare-Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs

- $44.7 billion estimated incentive payments
- Eligible providers and hospitals must demonstrate being *meaningful users of EHR* to receive payments
- Focus on clinician behavior to improve care
- A “meaningful user” must:
  - Use a certified EHR product
  - Meet core objectives and at least 5 “menu” objectives
  - At least one “menu” objective must address public health
  - Report quality measures
    - Current rules define requirements for stage 1 of 3 stages
    - Voluntary programs
What are the Requirements of Stage 1?

- **Eligible Professionals must complete:**
  - 15 core objectives
    - 6 total Clinical Quality Measures (CQM)
      (3 core or alternate core, and 3/38 from menu set)
  - 5 objectives out of 10 from menu set
    - 1 must be public health

- **Hospitals must complete:**
  - 14 core objectives
    - 15 CQM
  - 5 objectives out of 10 from menu set
### Examples of Core Objectives

- **Computerize Physician Order Entry (CPOE)**
  - Provide electronic copy of patient’s health information, upon request
- **Record demographics**
- **Maintain active medication list**
- **Record smoking status for patients 13 years or older**
- **Exchange key clinical information among**
- **Check drug-drug and drug-allergy interaction**
- **E-Prescribing (eRx)**
  - Provide clinical summaries for patients for each office visit
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of Menu Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate clinical lab test results as structured data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generate lists of patients by specific conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summarize care record for each transition of care/referral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Send reminders to patients per patient preference for preventive/follow up care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit electronic data to immunization registries <em>(eligible professionals and hospitals)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide electronic syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies <em>(eligible professionals and hospitals)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide electronic submission of reportable lab results to public health agencies <em>(hospitals only)</em></td>
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## MU: Stage 1 Menu Set Objectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Outcomes Policy Priority</th>
<th>Stage 1 Objective</th>
<th>Stage 1 Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve population and public health&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Capability to submit electronic data to immunization registries or Immunization Information Systems and actual submission in accordance with applicable law and practice</td>
<td>Performed at least one test of the certified EHR technology’s capacity to submit electronic data to immunization registries and follow-up submission if the test is successful (unless none of the immunization registries to which the EP, eligible hospital or CAH submits such information have the capacity to receive such information electronically)</td>
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**Hospitals Only:** Capability to submit electronic data on reportable (as required by state or local law) lab results to public health agencies and actual submission in accordance with applicable law and practice

Performed at least one test of certified EHR technology’s capacity to provide submission of reportable lab results to public health agencies and follow-up submission if the test is successful (unless none of the public health agencies to which the EP, eligible hospital or CAH submits such information have the capacity to receive such information electronically)

| Capability to submit electronic syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies and actual submission in accordance with applicable law and practice | Performed at least one test of certified EHR technology’s capacity to provide electronic syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies and follow-up submission if the test is successful (unless none of the public health agencies to which the EP, eligible hospital or CAH submits such information have the capacity to receive such information electronically) |

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<sup>1</sup>Unless an EP, eligible hospital or CAH has an exception for all of these objectives and measures they must complete at least one as part of their demonstration of the menu set in order to be a meaningful EHR user.
Three Steps to Meaningful Use

Acquire…
• a certified EHR system or module

Use …
• the system as rules require

Attest …
• the data was submitted as rules require

For Public Health
✓ Decide which of the 3 objectives will be part of the program
✓ Publish any additional test file specifications
✓ Verify successful test submission
What are the Reporting Requirements of Stage 1?

- **Stage 1 Meaningful Use:**
  - Reporting period:
    - 90 days for first year
    - One year for second year
  - Reporting through attestation
  - MU measures
    - Clinical Quality Measures
  - Reporting may be yes/no or numerator/denominator attestation
  - Certain objectives: 80% of patients must have records in the certified EHR technology
### Eligible Professionals– Core Set CQMs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NQF* Measure # &amp; PQRI** Implementation #</th>
<th>Clinical Quality Measure Title</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NQF 0013</td>
<td>Hypertension: Blood Pressure Measurement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| NQF 0028                                 | Preventive Care and Screening Measure Pair:  
a. Tobacco Use Assessment  
b. Tobacco Cessation Intervention |
| NQF 0421  
PQRI 128                               | Adult Weight Screening and Follow-up |

* National Quality Forum  
** Physician Quality Reporting Initiative
Adopt/Implement/Upgrade for Medicaid EHR Incentives

- Only for first participation year
- Adopted – demonstration of a financial and/or legal commitment to certified EHR technology
- Implemented – e.g., staff training, data entry of patient demographic information into EHR
- Upgraded – demonstration of a financial or legal commitment to the new MU certified release
- Must be certified EHR technology capable of meeting all of the meaningful use objectives
- No EHR reporting period
States’ Flexibility to Revise Meaningful Use

- States can seek CMS prior approval to move up to 4 public health related objectives to the core set for their Medicaid providers:
  - Generate lists of patients by specific conditions for quality improvement, reduction of disparities, research, or outreach (can specify particular conditions)
  - Reporting to immunization registries
  - Reportable lab results
  - Syndromic surveillance (can specify for their providers how to test the data submission and to which specific destination)

- As of 4/25/2011, no states had made this request
Stages 2 and 3

- Stage 2 recommendations being developed now
- Builds on Stage 1
- Lays foundation for Stage 3

**Data elements:** Include data of public health interest in EHRs for current and future use

**Reporting objectives:** Have to be of high value and feasibility

**Quality measures:** What are the most meaningful population health metrics?
Certifying EHR Systems

Goal: Standardize what EHR systems must do to achieve Meaningful Use requirements

Includes functional and interoperability requirements

Companion rules to meaningful use

A marketplace game-changer

Helps create greater consistency across products for public health to work with
RELEVANCE OF HITECH AND MEANINGFUL USE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
Implications for Population Health

- Increased focus on establishing population health priorities/indicators
- Increased focus on improving and maintaining health status in individual communities
Implications for Public Health (1 of 2)

- Unprecedented opportunity/challenge to partner on HIE and population health improvement
  - Public health agencies not the only infomediary of population health data
  - Medicaid program a critical partner
Implications for Public Health (2 of 2)

- **Increased expectations for HIE capabilities**
  - Upgrading information systems to be more standards-based
  - Upgrading servers and bandwidth may be necessary
  - Training the workforce in standards-based/HL7 information exchange
  - Greater need for agency-wide/enterprise architecture for HIE

- **Data quality takes on new urgency**

- **Adequate staffing to handle influx of (new) reporting practices and volume of data**
Opportunities

- Opportunity to transform – learning systems partnering together
- Operate as an industry; greater standardization across jurisdictions and information systems
- Align federal funding and initiatives with HITECH priorities
Working With Stakeholders

- Don’t assume public health reporting will occur as in the past
- Develop assessment and validation criteria for public health information systems
- Develop organizational capacity and workforce competencies
Resources

- [Http://www.cdc.gov/ehrmeaningfuluse](http://www.cdc.gov/ehrmeaningfuluse)
Resources

- Get information, FAQs, tip sheets and more at CMS’ s official website for the EHR incentive programs:
  - http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms
Resources

- Follow the latest information about the EHR incentive programs on Twitter at: http://www.Twitter.com/CMSGov
Resources

- Learn about certification and certified EHRs, as well as other ONC programs designed to support providers as they make the transition: http://healthit.hhs.gov
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Write your question on the card—legibly, please—then turn it in.