

EHR Forum
June 22, 2011
Meeting Summary

Participants

Patricia Cox, Steward Health Care
Jeremy Davis, Mt. Auburn Cambridge IPA
Michelle Fine, New England Quality Care Alliance
Chris Giancola, NEHEN/CSC
Myrna Jean-Charles, Mt. Auburn Cambridge IPA
Todd Lowthers, Northeast PHO
Paula Magnanti, Strategic Healthcare Solutions
Kelli McLaney, Massachusetts e-Health Institute
Wasima Parveen, New England Quality Care Alliance
Craig Schneider, Mass. Health Data Consortium

Summary

Announcements

Craig Schneider announced that HealthMart '11 will address "How to Receive Your Meaningful Use Payments." The program will be held on October 5th at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester, and exhibitor registration is now open (attendee registration will open in early August). Attendee and vendor flyers are attached to this summary, and registration and additional information may be found at www.mahealthdata.org.

Health Information Exchange

Jeremy Davis, Mt. Auburn Cambridge IPA
(Please see handout)

Discussion:

Q: Does the continuity of care (CCD) document summarize the patient's entire record?

A: It is a lifetime record, but clinicians may view individual encounters.

Q: Why did you select e-Clinical Works?

A: We had a close relationship with them, and other vendor products did not serve our needs as well at that time. Our goal was to support connection of our community; in the future we will focus on connecting to other organizations.

Q: Do you use opt-in or opt-out, how is the process working, and do you have data on those that opted out?

A: We have about 2500 patients, and the process has been relatively simple. We use opt-in, and it is handled by the front desk in the physician office, although the doctors explain consent to their patients. We do not have data on why those who opted out decided to do so.

Chris Giancola, NEHEN/CSC

(Please see handout)

Discussion:

Q: How do providers control referrals?

A: NEHEN offers a module to assist with this.

Q: Who owns the data?

A: The sender (the “source provider”), not NEHEN.

Comment: The Department of Public Health will be ready to receive lab data as of August 12th. However, the GE system cannot transmit to DPH. CMS says that would make providers exempt from the meaningful use requirement, but DPH does not agree.

Q: Does NEHEN work with other HIEs?

A: To some extent - we provide input, but we are not sitting at the table together.

Q: Does NEHEN compete with vendor systems?

A: We would like all providers and payers to participate in NEHEN, but we understand that some providers may want a vendor solution. NEHEN is a substantially lower cost option, perhaps one-quarter of what some vendors may charge. We recommend that you do not buy a la carte – under NEHEN dues, you get all services, with no limits. Our participating organizations have found that continuity of care documents (CCDs) are the number one use, followed by quality reporting and public reporting.

The Regional Extension Center and Implementation Optimization Organizations

Kelli McLaney, Massachusetts e-Health Institute

(Please see handout)

Discussion:

Q: Do you release the names of your registered physicians to the implementation optimization organizations?

A: No, but they may have obtained contact information from other sources.

Q: Will the state endorse a particular health information exchange?

A: The current strategy is to leverage the existing HIEs and to bridge any gaps between them.

Comment: The bar for physician office HIT appears to be lower - the one-year delay in adoption of Stage 2 meaningful use seems likely to be adopted, and the Board of Registration in Medicine has reduced the requirements for EHR expertise in order to remain licensed.

Topics for Future Meetings

The next meeting of the EHR Forum will be held on Thursday, October 27th. The agenda for this meeting is to be determined, but one of the topics will likely be the Stage 2 meaningful use regulation.