



Meeting Notes

Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC)

October 16, 2019, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. ET

VIRTUAL

Executive Summary

The HITAC reviewed the meeting agenda and approved the meeting minutes from the September 17, 2019 meeting. An overview of ONC objectives and benchmarks was presented for the purpose of the HITAC Annual Report. The Interoperability Standards Priorities Task Force (ISP TF) final draft report was presented and approved by a vote by the HITAC. The U.S. Core Data for Interoperability Task Force (USDCI TF) final draft recommendations were presented and approved by a vote by the HITAC. Lastly, there was a discussion of the topics that the HITAC will address in the next calendar year. There was one public comment.

Agenda

9:30 a.m.	Call to Order/Roll Call
9:35 a.m.	Welcome Remarks
9:40 a.m.	Review of Agenda and Approval of September 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes
9:45 a.m.	ONC Objectives and Benchmarks
10:00 a.m.	Interoperability Standards Priorities Task Force Final Draft Report and Vote
11:00 a.m.	U.S. Core Data for Interoperability Final Draft Recommendations and Vote
12:30 p.m.	HITAC 2020 Planning
1:15 p.m.	Public Comment
1:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Roll Call

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Carolyn Petersen, Individual, Co-Chair
Robert Wah, Individual, Co-Chair
Michael Adcock, Adcock Advisory Group
Christina Caraballo, Audacious Inquiry
Tina Esposito, Advocate Aurora Health
Cynthia A. Fisher, WaterRev, LLC
Valerie Grey, New York eHealth Collaborative
Anil Jain, IBM Watson Health
Jim Jirjis, Clinical Services Group of Hospital Corporation of America (HCA)
John Kansky, Indiana Health Information Exchange
Kensaku Kawamoto, University of Utah Health
Steven Lane, Sutter Health
Denni McColm, Citizens Memorial Healthcare
Clement McDonald, National Library of Medicine
Aaron Miri, The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School and UT Health Austin



Brett Oliver, Baptist Health
Terrence O'Malley, Massachusetts General Hospital
Raj Ratwani, MedStar Health
Steve L. Ready, Norton Healthcare
Sasha TerMaat, Epic
Andrew Truscott, Accenture
Sheryl Turney, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
Denise Webb, Individual

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Terry Adirim, Department of Defense
Kate Goodrich, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Leslie Lenert, Medical University of South Carolina
Arien Malec, Change Healthcare
Jonathan Nebeker, Department of Veterans Health Affairs

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Adi V. Gundlapalli, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Ram Sriram, National Institute of Standards and Technology

ONC STAFF

Elise Sweeney Anthony, Executive Director, Office of Policy
Lauren Richie, Branch Chief, Coordination, Designated Federal Officer
Seth Pazinski, Division Director, Strategic Planning and Coordination
Steve Posnack, Deputy National Coordinator

Welcome Remarks

The co-chairs thanked the task force co-chairs and members for their hard work throughout the year and congratulated the ISP TF and USCDI TF on finishing their final draft recommendations. **Jim Jirjis** was welcomed as a new member of the HITAC and briefly introduced himself to the HITAC members. **Adi Gundlapalli** was also welcomed as a new Federal Representative and introduced himself to the HITAC. Members were informed that the Annual Report Workgroup is currently reviewing the feedback received from the HITAC members and will share an update of their progress at the next HITAC meeting.

Review of Agenda and Approval of September 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The HITAC approved the September 17, 2019 meeting minutes by voice vote. No members opposed. No members abstained.

ONC Objectives and Benchmarks

Seth Pazinski and **Elise Sweeney Anthony** reviewed ONC's use of objectives and benchmarks and the priority target areas to inform the HITAC Annual Report. It was noted that ONC is open to suggestions and feedback from HITAC members regarding the objectives and benchmarks. The current ONC objectives for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 are:

- "Advance the development and use of health information technology (IT) capabilities" and
- "Establish transparent expectations for data sharing."

The three benchmarks include:



- “Publish final rule covering secure, standards-based application programming interfaces (APIs) for patients to access their medical records and information blocking exceptions”
- “Publish Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement” and
- “Coordinate health IT standards and certification to support interoperability”.

The progress to date on each of the three current benchmarks was also presented. HITAC members were thanked for their voluntary work on the benchmarks.

Interoperability Standards Priorities Task Force, Priority Uses of Health Information Technology Report and Vote

The overarching and specific charges of the task force, as well as the membership was reviewed. The layout of the final draft report was previously submitted to the HITAC members and a brief overview was also presented at the meeting. The final draft report was presented to the HITAC members; it was also noted that the HITAC has seen a majority of the content of the draft report in updates given by the task force at prior HITAC meetings.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

- The importance of continuing the work of the task force was emphasized by members and it was suggested that either the ISP TF continue their work or that the other proposed topics are addressed by another/standing task force.
- Question: How will the ISP TF recommendations be moved toward implementation? Specifically, are there areas that HHS is interested in aligning with the gap areas that the TF identified?
- More work is needed to address the gaps in other areas that ONC is responsible for such as the Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA), USCDI, Conditions and Maintenance of Certification, integration of physical and mental health and the opioid epidemic.
- The work of the task force will aid the ONC and the Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) on the development of the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) as well as use cases for priority standards.
- Question: Are there formal plans in place as to how the RCE and the HITAC will work together?
 - RCE was just awarded in September.
 - Will include how to move from concept to operationalization and will take ISP/HITAC recommendations into consideration, especially the technical framework.
- Reminder of annual requirement in the Cures Act for the HITAC to review and submit priority standards for ONC consideration.
- Question: Should there be a fast-track option for data element approval in the case of a national health emergency?
 - It was suggested that this topic be addressed under the scope of the USCDI TF.
 - It was suggested that for true emergencies, it should not be a committee level approval process but that of the government approval process in order to avoid delays.

The HITAC approved the ISP TF Final Draft Recommendations and Report by voice vote. No members opposed. No members abstained.

U.S. Core Data for Interoperability Final Draft Recommendations and Vote

The task force membership, charge, and meeting schedule were reviewed. A summary of the current ONC promotion model and the task force proposed promotion model were also presented. The USCDI TF Commentary and Recommendations were reviewed in detail. Each block of recommendations was



discussed and voted on separately.

DATA ELEMENT PROMOTION CRITERIA AND PROMOTION MODEL MILESTONES

Discussion on Recommendations 1-6

- A concern was raised about ONC having a major role in the review process of data elements as it is an important role that will need to be adequately resourced.
 - It was suggested that, in an effort to ensure that all data element submissions are reviewed and responded to in an appropriate time frame, a length of time in which a response from ONC must be offered should be decided.
- It was clarified that, according to the standards version advancement process included in the ONC proposed rule, a new version of the USCDI will be created and published on a predictable cadence.
 - Data elements progress through classification levels on a rolling basis through the promotion process. In order to create a new version of the USCDI on a set schedule, the promotion of a data element from Level 2 to USCDI must occur in a way that coincides with a cadence. It was suggested that a deadline be set for entrance of data elements into each new version of the USCDI.
- It was questioned how the data element advancement process would proceed if not all participating organizations were in favor of an element advancing.
 - It was stated that the task force did consider this problem and addressed it in the “annual review of the promotion process” portion of the draft.
- It was suggested that a set of rules or a rubric be created to ensure that data elements conform to certain criteria that will ensure they will be an effective addition into the ecosystem they will enter.

The HITAC approved the final USCDI Recommendations 1-6 by voice vote. No members opposed. No members abstained.

PUBLIC/SUBMITTER FEEDBACK ON PROMOTION MODEL

Discussion on Recommendation 7

No questions or comments were offered on this recommendation.

The HITAC approved the final USCDI Recommendation 7 by voice vote. No members opposed. No members abstained.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROMOTION PROCESS

Discussion on Recommendation 8A-8F

- The suggestion to offer an option to quickly transition a data element to USCDI in the case of a health emergency was revisited.
 - It was noted that this concept of an accelerated track for a data element could also be utilized in the case of a critical research finding.

The HITAC approved the final USCDI Recommendations 8A-8F by voice vote. No members opposed. No members abstained.



SUBMISSION AND ADVANCEMENT USERS' GUIDE

Discussion on Recommendation 9

- It was suggested that a question be added under the potential impact section, asking for evidence as to how the data element will reduce the burden on the continuum of care.

The HITAC approved the final USCDI Recommendation 9 by voice vote. No members opposed. No members abstained.

PROPOSED "PILOT" USE CASE TO TEST THE USCDI MODEL

Discussion on Recommendation 10

- It was suggested that the pilot use case should address one of the primary domains suggested by the ISP TF.
- It was suggested that the recommendation become more broad, stating that ONC should pilot one or two use cases to support the user guide, but not specify the topic. The following amendment was proposed:
 - The phrase "such as" was added to the first bullet and it now reads "Such as Social Determinants of Health".
 - A new bullet was added, reading "Or a well-specified data class."

The HITAC approved the final amended USCDI Recommendation 10 by voice vote. No members opposed. No members abstained.

HITAC 2020 Planning

The current HITAC priority target areas were reviewed. The proposed HITAC plans for the calendar year (CY) 2020 were discussed, including formation of a new Electronic Health Record (EHR) Reporting Program Task Force. A discussion was held among members about the proposed topics that the HITAC may address in the coming year.

DISCUSSION

- ONC expressed interest in the topic area suggestions from the HITAC members as the ONC prepares the charges for the upcoming year. It was explained that the ONC aims to construct the HITAC charges to meet the areas of interest of the members but also to align with the topics that ONC deems as important. HITAC members were urged to offer feedback to ONC.
- The importance of continuing to address privacy and security around interoperability and secondary uses of data was emphasized.
 - The need for further patient/consumer education regarding authorization of the use of data was also noted.
- It was suggested that the topic presented regarding price transparency and clinical and administrative data standards be separated, and price transparency be addressed on its own.
 - It was stated that a set of common standards or approaches for sharing pricing data with consumers is needed for there to be consistency throughout health care systems.
 - It was suggested that a task force be created to focus on price transparency as it is a



topic of concern for consumers.

- It was suggested that the HITAC gather feedback and information on the effectiveness of the newly instated TEFCAs regulations in the health care system to offer data to ONC.
- The need to reflect on the implementation of the Information-blocking rule was stated.
 - Clarification on data repurposing was also deemed a worthwhile topic for discussion.
- Payer-to-Provider Health Information Exchange was noted as an important topic that the HITAC should consider addressing, as work in that area can benefit the patient, provider, and the payer.
- Standards for de-duplication of Data from Multiple Sources was suggested as a high-value item of consideration, especially with the newly instated TEFCAs.
 - It was noted that the efficient integration of received data needs improvement and would be related to this discussion.
- It was suggested that advancements in health IT (HIT) and medical devices call for a discussion regarding Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence.
- Chronic conditions, especially those with the highest morbidity and mortality, was suggested as an initial focus for semantic interoperability.
- Priority uses of HIT, related standards, and the USCDI were noted as critical areas that need a continued focus.
- Utilize the new EHR reporting program to collect data on the level of support from vendors on key functionalities.
- Integrating genomics information into HIT was suggested for future consideration, but the overwhelming amount of work needed to achieve this was also noted.
- The patient-physician relationship with regard to patient information was addressed. Real-time access, imaging, and workflow optimization were suggested as focus topics.

HITAC members were thanked by ONC for their thoughtful contribution. The release of the common agreement for review by the HITAC members was noted as an opportunity for members to offer feedback to ONC. The EHR reporting program was mentioned as a topic that is expected to be addressed in the upcoming fiscal year. It was stated that ONC's aim is to achieve the most impact possible, which will be a driving factor in deciding on the topics to be focused on immediately.

Public Comment

Shelly Spiro, Executive Director of the Pharmacy HIT Collaborative: Ms. Spiro stated that she is representing over 250,000 members of the Majority National Pharmacy Associations. She explained that the vision of the Pharmacy HIT Collaborative is to ensure that the health IT infrastructure will allow pharmacists to help optimize person-centered care. A goal of the Collaborative is to ensure that pharmacists in all patient care settings are integrated into the national health IT infrastructure. It was stated that the Collaborative supports the efforts of the ISP TF and the USCDI TF recommendations. Members of the Collaborative encourage ONC to recognize the high level of national adoption of the pharmacist electronic care plan.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ADOBE

Aaron Miri: Fun fact based on Robert's opening comment: Last world series in Washington DC was 1933. There were only 48 states at the time and the cost of gasoline was 18 cents.

Aaron Miri: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2019/10/16/last-time-washingtons-baseball-team-advanced-world-series/>



Jim Jirjis: How does this task force work with the newly named RCE responsibilities?

Robert Wah: Aaron, thanks for the additional background and links. Pretty amazing for Washington, great to have something else to talk about in town.

Andy Truscott: Likewise - although it appears I missed something about a "world" series?

Andy Truscott: Steven is right - Tacit Agreement

Becky Gradl, MPH, RD: The Gravity Project is currently defining data elements related to food insecurity and will be looking to test the implementation of these data elements through some connectathons. This might be a good candidate to test the USCDI Model as the Gravity Project work is currently happening.

Lauren Richie: Amendment: Such as Social Determinants of Health

Lauren Richie: Second bullet: And other well-specified data classes of high value

Lauren Richie: revised: And other well-specified data classes

Lauren Richie: revised: Or a well-specified data class

Lauren Richie: To the members of the public, please be advised that we likely will have public comment earlier than what is stated on the agenda. Please plan to participate in the public comment of the portion after the HITAC 2020 Planning agenda item. You may call 1-877-407-7192 at that time.

Thompson Boyd: HITAC 2020 Planning (Thompson Boyd): Leveraging the Services (Value) of a Regional/Statewide HIE in Clinician Workflow.

Thompson Boyd: HITAC 2020 Planning (Thompson Boyd): Privacy and Security in the Telehealth space.

Adi Gundlapalli (CDC) 2: CDC appreciates the topic of public health emergency standards! High and acute need as the next crisis is usually only a week or month away. Thank you

Aaron Miri: And we appreciate the CDC. A number of us are forever reminded of the Health IT policy committee meeting in which the CDC presented the challenges during the height of Zika. Thank you for all that you all do for all of us.

Thompson Boyd: Usability Design in the Integration of Data from outside disparate sources (HIE, Databases of SDOH). Using appropriate IHE Standards (e.g., XDS.b)

Adi Gundlapalli (CDC) 2: Thank you. Data issues are noted in the current lung injury response too.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Members were thanked for their hard work and participation in finalizing and approving the work of the ISP TF and the USCDI TF. The Annual Report Workgroup will be presenting an update of the report at the next HITAC meeting on November 13, 2019. The meeting was adjourned early at 12:30 p.m. ET.