



Health IT Standards Committee

A Public Advisory Body on Health Information Technology to the National Coordinator for Health IT

August 30, 2012

Farzad Mostashari, MD, ScM
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Mostashari,

The HIT Standards Committee's (HITSC) Nationwide Health Information Network Power Team developed recommendations for standards evaluation criteria. The attached recommendations and evaluation criteria were presented to the HITSC, deliberated on and accepted for transmittal to the National Coordinator on August 15, 2012.

Recommendations

- The evaluation process and metrics are intended to provide structure and discipline to a qualitative evaluation and classification of technical specifications. The metrics should not be used to generate a "score" as input to a numeric "average" or to determine whether a "minimum score" has been attained, rather metrics are best used to inform and justify a classification decision.
- ONC should select specification(s) for evaluation based on industry needs for specific use cases. The specifications should:
 - Provide description of use case(s)
 - If specification is non-functional, include implementation guidance in the evaluation
 - If alternative specifications exist, consider asking for comparative evaluation
 - Incorporate process for identifying national standards that may need to be re-evaluated
- The evaluation of a specification against the proposed set of metrics might also serve as a good prediction rule for predicting the future success of a new national standard. The HITSC recommends that ONC incorporate a process for retrospectively evaluating the validity and power of these metrics for use as a prediction rule, and that these metrics be refined over time, as appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Jonathan Perlin
Chair, Health IT Standards Committee

/s/

John Halamka
Vice Chair, Health IT Standards Committee

Attachment:

HITSC Final Recommendations for Standards Evaluation Criteria