Importance of Global Consensus Standards for the United States

National Committee
on Vital and Health Statistics
June 30, 2005

Audrey Dickerson, RN, MS
Manager, Standards Initiatives

Global Role of Standards

- Efficiency of cost and time
- Standards written into laws and policies
  - Less regulation
  - Japan complies with all international Standards
  - EU which complies with [CEN] European Standards
- Standards, in non-US countries, are generally
  - Supported by the government budget
  - Experts are funded by the government

Role of Standards in US

- Electrical Standards – International Electro-technical Commission (IEC)
  - Plug
  - Light bulb threads
- Banking – ISO/TC 68 ANSI is the secretariat
  - ATM's
- Transportation (Department of Transportation)
  - Railroads Gauge system
  - Traffic signs, lights, and demarcations

Role of HIT Standards in US

- Promote Patient Safety
  - Use of electronic health records using standards to improve interoperability
  - semantic understanding of information to minimize opportunities for error
- Promote efficiency using Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) standards
  - Film-less radiology departments
- Accurate complete consistent data for building best practices, for research and Public Health surveillance

Importance for US to be Involved in World Standards Effort

- Open world markets for trade
- Reduce cost of goods sold across borders
- Share information across borders for best practices and to reduce duplication
- Increase demand as end users have access to information, without expensive interfaces
- “Technology Transfer Act”

Role of ISO/TC 215 Health Informatics

- **Adopt/Develop HIT standards for implementation in all healthcare areas**
  - Harmonize with other standards developers worldwide
  - Adopt current standards into the consensus process
  - Achieve consensus, not necessarily 100% agreement
  - Achieve balanced representation, with providers, end users, vendors and payers participating
- **Achieve compatibility and interoperability among independent systems**
- **Reduce duplication of effort and recognize mutual needs**

ISO/TC 215 Topics & Liaisons

- Infrastructure
  - Data Structure
  - Data Interchange
  - Semantic Content
  - Security
- Domain
  - Pharmacy
  - Health Cards
  - Devices
  - Business Requirements for an EHR

- Active Liaisons
  - IEEE
  - HL7
  - DICOM
  - ICN
  - IMIA
  - IEC
  - IHE
  - CLSI

Global HIT Summit
ISO/TC 215 and HIMSS

- Listen to:
  - IT Leaders of Australia and UK
  - International Industry Leaders
  - WHO E-Health Minister
- How Standards Developers can meet the need
- Set up Global Collaboration for HIT Standards

Why should NCVHS Care about ISO/TC 215 Consensus Standards

- All good ideas are not in the US
- Products for export that bear one set of standards are cheaper to produce
- Can import products compatible with our needs
- Can reduce duplication and increase harmonization
- Can reduce errors and increase patient safety

Action: Recommendation to the Secretary

- **HHS as a department member of ANSI could**
  - Adopt and prioritize current ANSI HI standards
  - Give all HHS agencies the choice to participate cheaply
- **Recommend Subject matter experts join the US Technical Advisory Group/US delegation to ISO/TC 215**
  - Push for global harmonization to shorten the standards adopt/development process
  - Government Agencies subject matter experts to push US perspective related to international voluntary consensus standards