Importance of Global Consensus Standards for the United States

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
June 30, 2005
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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 Electrotechnical 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