Testimony to the National Committee on Vital & Health Statistics Subcommittee on Standards

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Expressed goal of this hearing: Improve Processes for Standards

- What are major recent HIT standards development, selection, &/or implementation achievements?
 Describe enabling processes.
- What HIT standards, development, selection, &/or implementation challenges remain?
- What should model be for development, adoption, & implementation of HIT standards for nation as a whole?
- Who are the players & who should be involved?





1. What are major recent HIT standards development, selection, &/or implementation achievements?

- HITSP implementation specifications
- Structured product labels for approved drugs disseminated via DailyMed, linked to RxNorm & other knowledge sources, e.g., ClinicalTrials.gov
- Promotion of International adoption of standard terminology:Formation of International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) plus more coordination among ISO, CEN, HL7, IHTSDO, & CDISC
- Proactive expansion of LOINC to include genetic tests & newborn screening tests
- New version of Surgeon General's Family Health History tool, with standards, e.g., SNOMED CT, HL7, built in
- AHIC Working Group on Personalized health care standards matrix [tests (LOINC) that detect conditions (SNOMED CT)] for newborn screening.
- Important international standards published by ISO on the EHR and on privacy and security



1b. Describe HIT Standards Processes

Then - Bottom up

- + Well vetted
- + Experts committed
- Too many standards
- Slow to achieve global harmonization
- \$s & Site(s) forMaintenance & Access
- Limited vision
- + Devil you know
- Idealism over pragmatism

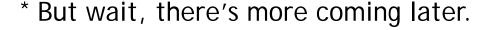
Emerging - Top down

- + Actual standards can be set
- + Potential for globalization
- + Potential for Stable Funding & Maintenance/Access
- Needed standards don't get considered or move forward for political reasons (wrong cooks stirring the pot?)
- +/- Sufficient vetting
- Unintended consequences
- Idealism over pragmatism



2. What HIT standards, development, selection, &/or implementation challenges remain?*

- Decision Support
- Personalized Care
- Population Health Support
- Semantic interoperability, tying SNOMED CT to record structures
- Clinical knowledge models that reflect clinical best practice
- Selection challenge
 - Device terminology & identifiers





3. What should the model be for development, adoption, & implementation of HIT standards for nation as a whole?

Process Model: Label data at source -

- LOINC on test kits
- Outputs from test devices labeled with LOINC
- RxNorm available with drug is approved & SPL is released



Rephrased 3. What Model is needed for development, adoption, & implementation of HIT & HCT standards for the nation as a whole?

NCVHS needs to develop an Outcomes Model that uses complementary HIT & HCT (Health Communications Technology) Standards if we are to reach desired societal values

 Health information & health communications are not the same. We need both.



Standards are explicit representations that reflect our view of the world &, hence, what we choose to recognize & value.

Values: Moral Attitudes & Habits

Standards inevitably lead our thinking toward certain measures.



The Link between Standards & Values

The Surgeon: What possible difference does it make what my standards are?

Elephant Man: Because it is your standards we live by.

- Paraphrased from "The Elephant Man"



An NCVHS Outcome Model for Standards Development is needed.

 And, a key consideration is currently ignored.
 We focus far too disproportionately on standards for HIT (Information).

We ignore far too much needed standards for HCT (Communications).



A difference is a difference if it makes a difference.

We need standards for both HIT & HCT.

Ex: Advanced Directives for End-of-Life care.

HIT End-of-Life Standards describe templates to accurately express information regarding personal choices.

HCT End-of-Life Standards assure: 1) currency of directives & 2) that current directives are actually delivered to relevant caregivers in a timely manner.

Like difference b/n quality measurement v. quality improvement.

Otherwise,

That which is measured drives out that which is important.

- Rene Dubos



What vision does America seek to achieve for its people? What road will we follow?

- Healthy people living in an altruistic society
 - Social Determinates of Health ~50% of health status
 - Meaningful employment
 - Shelter
 - Education
 - Safe environment
 - Healthcare that is equitable, efficient, effective, patient & population-centered, timely, & safe



What are we achieving today? Neither greater Health nor greater Altruism

- Rising unemployment
- Rising loss of homes
- Rising loss of insurance
- Rising numbers of poor children
- Rising health care costs with rising poor system performance in international comparisons
- Rising imbalance among key social goods
- Stock market yesterday at level when I chaired NCVHS over a decade ago.





What is required for America to achieve these values for its people?

Standards that create a better balance among competing social goods

- Altruism
- Freedom
- Healthy Individuals
- Healthy Communities
- Personal privacy
- Personal autonomy
- Useful Knowledge

How might America achieve this? New Model NCVHS-approved HIT & HCT Standards

- Value-driven Care deserves Value-drive Standards
 - As defined by the patient, e.g., FREE access to personal & altruistic options
 - As defined by the health professional based upon relevant evolving knowledge (NRC Computational Technology for Effective Health Care -2009)
 - As defined by equitable, safe, efficient, timely, patient-centered, & effective standards (IOM Chasm - 2000)
- HIT & HCT Standards compatible with care that is:
 - Evidence-based
 - Delivered by a team
 - Patient-centered
 - Continuously improving quality

Utilizes Informatics (IOM Education Summit - 2003)



What is required for America to achieve these values for its people?

NCVHS needs a Model to derive relevant HIT & HCT Standards to enhance Equity, Patient-centeredness, Timeliness to match growing focus on Effectiveness, Efficiency, & Safety

Ex., Underinsurance & Lack of Insurance





A New Model is Needed

Today there is scant support for Americans to choose b/n Altruistic v. Self(ish) Goals



Today HIPAA limits access to Useful Knowledge, e.g. legitimate Biomedical & Health Research*:

Examples:

- 1) Today, no simple consent generic procedure to allow citizens to share personal health data for legitimate scientific research
- 2) Increasingly expensive unfunded mandates keep being enacted without clear health benefits & that are likely to further hurt biomedical & health research supported through public funds
 - Ex. New regulations on de-identified data & what will fall under minimum necessary data
- 3) Few standards explicitly that support solely community benefit



*AAMC (earlier), AAHC (2009), IOM (2009) Reports

2. What HICT standards, development, selection, &/or implementation challenges remain?

- Decision Support
- Personalized Care
- Population Health Support
- Semantic interoperability, tying SNOMED CT to record structures
- Clinical knowledge models that reflect clinical best practice
- Selection challenges
 - For each of the above

3. What should the model be for the development, adoption, and implementation of HIT & HCT standards for the nation as a whole?

The model should be an OUTCOME MODEL that reflects important NAS/IOM/NRC/NAE/AMIA/AAHC/AAMC/International Groups with other key reports relating to Quality, Safety, Public Health, Privacy, Health Information & Communication Technology and its Use; Computerbased Health Records, Rural Health, & Research

Then, the processes for developing relevant HIT & HCT standards may better reflect core American values & creating global markets for products that adopt them.

Question for NCVHS

Do you need a new working group aka the NHII Working Group to "take on" this new robust HICT Standards model?



4. Who are the players & who should be involved? Whoever is hungry plus whoever else shows up.





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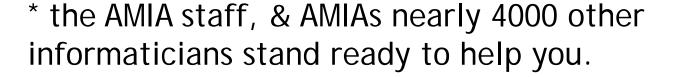
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Thank you again for the invitation.

My presentation will be posted at http://www.amia.org

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