



National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics

Advising the Secretary of Health and Human Services
on health information policy since 1949.

*The National Committee on Vital and
Health Statistics:
Standards Subcommittee
January 9, 2018*

- A. Predictability Roadmap**
- B. CIO Forum**
- C. Discussion**



Standards Subcommittee – Responsibilities

Two of the six charges are especially pertinent this year:

1. Provide outreach, and serve as a public forum on health information technology standards for the health care industry, public health, the research community, standards development organizations, federal, state and local governments and consumer groups;
2. Make recommendations to the Full Committee related to electronic transactions, terminologies and code sets, identifiers, clinical documentation, and security measures; highlighting the impact of these items in the health care system.



The Predictability Roadmap – a value proposition

- Health care organizations need access to methods of data exchange that are flexible and interoperable.
 - How do we create and enable greater flexibility and more rapid implementation of changes, to allow organizations to meet their business needs?
- Updates to and adoption of standards and operating rules have not kept pace with the evolving business, operations and technology challenges and needs of our health care stakeholders
 - How do we identify and act on the right short term challenges and barriers? Who are the right actors who can identify the solutions and break down the barriers?
- NCVHS is gathering information to guide recommendations towards improvements in flexibility and responsiveness.

Predictability Roadmap – Overarching issues

- **Barriers to the update and adoption processes for standards and operating rules can be impacted by:**
 - Changes in Technology
 - Changes in Policy (requirements or strategy)
 - Industry Operations
 - Procedural changes anywhere in the system
- **Questions we are asking**
 - What must be adopted, by when?
 - What standards are needed, for what purpose?
 - Have collaboration tools for reviewing standards been modernized?
 - Is the right standard being adopted for the right purpose at the right time?



Activity	Roadmap Status
Spring 2017 Information Gathering & conference calls	Voluntary information gathering to understand the methods by which each SDO and ORAE conducts its updates. The committee produced and circulated a comprehensive grid with information for each organization. Published the grid on the NCVHS website.
Appreciative Inquiry Visioning Workshop – August 2017	Full day workshop with representatives of the SDOs/ORAE and interested industry stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities for updating and adopting standards and operating rules.
Summary Report – Fall 2017	Narrative report describing the workshop, highlighting each of the workgroups ideas from the four sections (Discovery, Dream, Design, Destiny), culminating in a set of themes and proposed opportunities for action. Published workshop summary on NCVHS website.
Follow up validation call – December 2017	Review of proposed themes, barriers and actions steps with SDO representatives and other workshop participants.



Themes from Appreciative Inquiry Workshop

1. Standards Development Processes

- Best practices for SDOs and ORAE
- Efficiencies

2. Standards Adoption Governance

- Current vs. existing entities (e.g. DSMO change request)
- Identify best practices, determine what can change and how and when change can be effectuated

3. Data Harmonization

- Cohesive data dictionary
- Coordinating committee

4. Federal Adoption Process

- Oversight and control
- Timeliness

5. Covered entity designations

- Inclusion of vendors and other third parties as covered entities



We'll know we have the right roadmap when (1)

1. Standards Development Processes (i.e. Streamlining): The schedule is defined and well understood

- Standards and operating rules implemented more frequently and consistently in support of administrative efficiency improvements
- Standards and operating rules implemented more frequently and consistently in support of evolving health care business changes
 - E.g. Standards with base version may be promulgated for an upgrade no less than every 10 years. The implementation guides for those base versions may be updated every 2 years (e.g. X12, HL7).
 - E.g. Other standards for which the base and implementation guide are the same may be updated no more frequently than every year.
- Federal rulemaking processes more rapid and consistent to allow business implementers to plan for resource allocation and effective change management.



We'll know we have the right roadmap when (2)

2. Standards Adoption Governance: We have effective oversight and consensus

- A new charter enables the addition of new organizational members to the DSMO.
- The re-imagined oversight body has and uses its authority to coordinate with and across standards and operating rule entities to monitor development and dissemination of artifacts and maintenance of data dictionaries.



We'll know we have the right roadmap when (3)

3. We have data harmonization and cohesion to ensure that data definitions and details are consistent across developed standards to foster better interoperability:

- A new oversight Data Coordinating body works to expand the DSMO or identify the appropriate bodies to implement cohesion activities.
 - Include UMLS, USHIK, NIST, ONC, CIMI and others
- The data coordinating body has authority to oversee activities of all standards organizations to ensure harmonization of data dictionaries, which enables accurate communication with all standards across all entities.
- Data is interoperable in enabling other activities.



We'll know we have the right roadmap when (4)

4. Regulations are published on a regular timetable

- Rulemaking follows a reasonable timetable, adopting versions of standards and operating rules that have been approved by an industry sanctioned review processes.
- Appropriate, clear and timely guidance is provided that enables covered entities to implement standards and operating rules effectively.
- Policies enable trading partners to use more advanced “developmental” versions of standards and operating rules when desired, supporting innovation.



We'll know we have the right roadmap when (5)

5. Covered entity designations reflect how business operates in the current environment

- Business associates are more effectively encouraged to comply with laws and regulations.
- Enforcement is consistently applied to covered entities and business associates and outcomes are used for education and outreach.
- Guidance supports the appropriate and beneficial use of the standards and operating rules for all parties to the transaction.



CIO forum

- Program: one or two-day forum
- Purpose: solicit input from diverse group of CIOs who are end users of the standards and operating rules
- Ask:
 - How their vision for predictable updates in health care technology includes the use of standards and operating rules
 - If the current schedule of updates is frequent enough
 - What is the ideal schedule for updates to standards
 - If the updates incorporate the types of changes that accommodate the way business is changing
 - What improvements would they propose
 - What changes do they see happening in health care that necessitate attention and might impact the roadmap.



CIO Forum (2)

Discussion and Recommendations for CIO Forum

1. Expertise
2. Organizations
3. Questions
 - Examples driven by use cases:
 - Current challenges
 - Evolving payment methods
 - Data exchange with business associates and other entities
 - Reporting requirements
 - Organizational trends, mergers
 - Innovation
 - Cybersecurity
 - Interoperability



Discussion and next steps:

- **Design and conduct CIO Forum**
 - Identify participants
 - Determine timing (April ?)
 - Create question set
 - Invite participants
- **Review CIO feedback and incorporate into the roadmap**
- **Draft detailed recommendations for the roadmap**
- **Meet with each SDO, ORAE and HHS one-on-one to review the recommendations and actionable steps**



Other ongoing subcommittee activities:

- Monitor activities by NCPDP, X12, HL7 with respect to proposals for adoption of updates
- Monitor industry work efforts on prior authorization and patient matching
- Monitor initiatives using FHIR and C-CDA
- New Medicare Card
- Terminologies and vocabularies
- Identify pain points and opportunities e.g. virtual credit cards, promotion of virtual and digital payments – costs or potential benefits for providers.
- Other parking lot items and initiatives that may arise



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