National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
Advising the HHS Secretary on National Health Information Policy

Subcommittee on Standards

Listening Session on Health Care Standards Development, Adoption, and Implementation

August 25, 2021

Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- NCVHS Subcommittee on Standards Charge
- Predictability Roadmap
- Standardization of Information for Burden Reduction and Post-Pandemic America
- Status of Responses to Requests for Comments (RFC)
- Introduction to Process for Panel Discussions
  - ❖ Panel 1: Lessons learned from national standards coordination (beyond healthcare)
  - ❖ Panel 2: Updates from standards organizations and industry
  - ❖ Panel 3: Semantic Harmonization
  - ❖ Panel 4: Public Health and Social Risk Data updates
- Subcommittee Discussion on Next Steps
- Public Comment

Standards Subcommittee Charge

Monitors and makes recommendations to the full NCVHS as follows:

- Identify issues and opportunities in health data standards;
- Provide outreach, liaison, and consultation with, and serve as a public forum on health information technology standards for the health care industry and federal, state and local governments;
- Make recommendations related to electronic standards and operating rules under HIPAA, privacy and security standards, health terminologies and vocabularies;
- Make recommendations on strategies to promote a continuing process of developing, coordinating, adopting, implementing and maintaining standards. These strategies may include public information and educational efforts as well as research and development efforts;
- Participate in development/publication of the Report to Congress on HIPAA Administrative Simplification
- Collaborate with other Federal Advisory Committees on cross-cutting issues as appropriate and when delegated by the Full Committee

Predictability Roadmap Priorities

➢ **Focus on immediate and longer-term needs identified by industry and within the Subcommittee's charter:**

- Build on prior "Predictability Roadmap" recommendations

- Improve availability and/or access to updated versions of standards

- Address clinical, administrative and other data intersections

- Support move to interoperability

- Improve regulatory processes to enable access to updated or new standards

- Improve standards update and adoption processes

- Reduce administrative burdens

Subcommittee work plan: Standardization of Information for Burden Reduction and Post-Pandemic America

Intent: Build on Predictability Roadmap and identify current industry innovative activities, priorities and burden

➢ **Phase 1: Assess the current health data standards landscape**

- o Listening Session and Request for Written Comments (August 2021)

- o Analyze the listening session information; identify issues and opportunities.

- o Conceptualize potential solutions to improve efficiency and reduce burden

- o Develop workplan for Phase II

➢ **Phase II: Develop and refine recommendations based on assessment of standards input, industry consultation and NCVHS input**

- o Standards: Development, regulation, implementation, enforcement

- o Convergence: Coordinate efforts with ONC and HITAC

- o Identify other opportunities related to HHS priorities

Standardization of Information for Burden Reduction and Post-Pandemic America (2)

Additional opportunities that may be considered for evaluation:

- FHIR and APIs

- All-Payer Claims Databases (APCD) Common Data Layout (CDL) Consistency of reporting and/or exchange of social risk data

- Conformance/Enforcement improvement opportunities

- Sanctioned exceptions and alternatives to HIPAA transaction standards

- Health data flows beyond traditional HIPAA and HITECH trading partners
  - Social and structural determinants of health; patient social services programs
  - Public health, infectious diseases and vital statistics
  - Pandemic-related lessons learned
  - Patient/consumer-driven data

Listening Session Panels

Panel 1:

Lessons Learned from National Standards Coordination (Functions and Processes)

- Exploring examples of models for harmonized sector-wide data standardization beyond health care
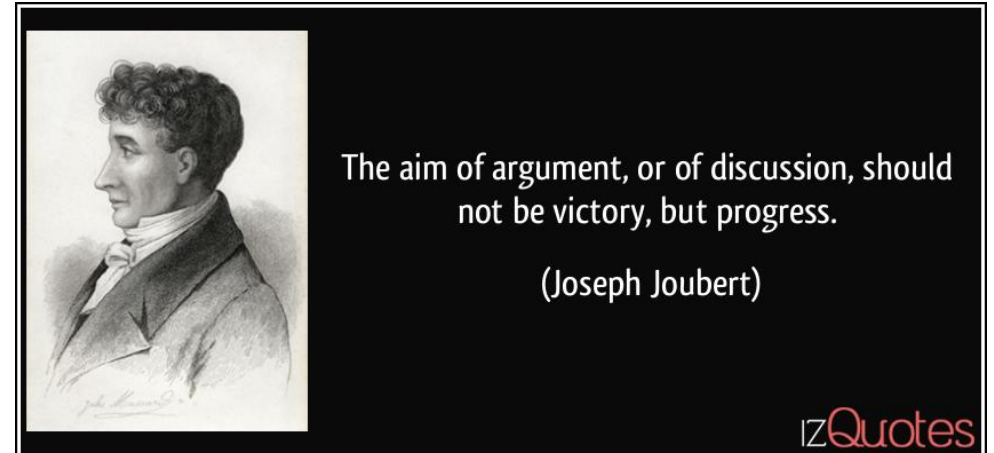
Panel 2:

Information exchange and HIPAA – present day challenges and future opportunities

Panel 3:

Semantic Harmonization of Standards

Panel 4:

Update on national and HHS initiatives on Public Health Data Systems and Social Determinants of Health

Request for Comments

Subcommittee released **Request for Comments** in June 2021:

- 30+ letters received to date
- Several with multiple signatory organizations

1. How can **data sharing** be improved between patients, providers, payers, public health system, and other actors in health care? What are the barriers to these improvements?

2. Are there any **new standards or use cases** available or under development that should be considered by NCVHS for recommendation to HHS for adoption to support interoperability, burden reduction and administrative simplification?

3. How have **other industries** effectively implemented, tested, and certified standards for data and their exchange that could be considered for health care?

4. What short term, mid-term and long-term **opportunities or solutions** do you believe should be priorities for HHS in the next 5 to 10 years?

To view all public comments visit: https://ncvhs.hhs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Public-Comments-Standards-Subcommittee-Meeting-August-16-2021.pdf

In Remembrance – Laurie Burckhardt

- Long term member of HIT community

- DSMO chair

- X12, HL7, NUBC, NUCC, WEDI

- Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation; WPS Health Solutions

Panel Discussions and Process

Listening Session Panels

Panel 1:

Lessons Learned from National Standards Coordination (Functions and Processes)

- Exploring examples of models for harmonized sector-wide data standardization beyond health care
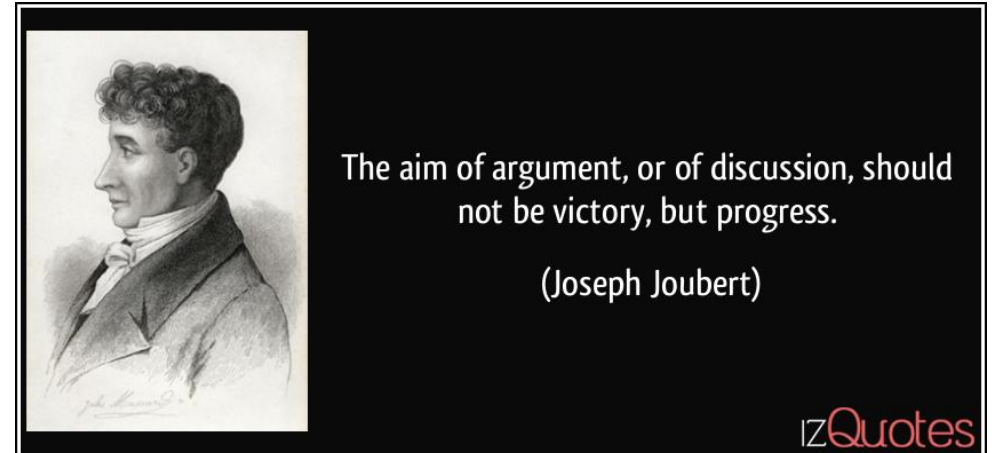
Panel 2:

Information exchange and HIPAA – present day challenges and future opportunities

Panel 3:

Semantic Harmonization of Standards

Panel 4:

Update on national and HHS initiatives on Public Health Data Systems and Social Determinants of Health

The aim of argument, or of discussion, should not be victory, but progress.

(Joseph Joubert)

izQuotes

Overview of
Federal Health Information Standards Convergence Landscape

NCVHS

- Rich Landen, Co-chair, Subcommittee on Standards

HITAC (Health Information Technology Advisory Committee)

- Aaron Miri, Co-chair

NCVHS Activities

- **Predictability Roadmap**
  - Envisioning a more industry-driven standards development and adoption
  - More timely updates: more frequent but smaller, more "digestible" updates
  - Enhanced pre-adoption testing
  - Building in ROI determination
  - Enforcement/conformance

- **Terminologies/Vocabularies, ICD-11 pre-work**

- **Convergence: administrative, clinical, patient and other health data interoperability standards**
  - Collaboration with ONC/HITAC: ICAD task force and more

HITAC Activities

Discussion

Request for Comments (RFC)

Subcommittee released **Request for Comments** in June 2021:

- 30+ letters received to date
- Several with multiple signatory organizations

1. How can **data sharing** be improved between patients, providers, payers, public health system, and other actors in health care? What are the barriers to these improvements?

2. Are there any **new standards or use cases** available or under development that should be considered by NCVHS for recommendation to HHS for adoption to support interoperability, burden reduction and administrative simplification?

3. How have **other industries** effectively implemented, tested, and certified standards for data and their exchange that could be considered for health care?

4. What short term, mid-term and long-term **opportunities or solutions** do you believe should be priorities for HHS in the next 5 to 10 years?

To view all public comments visit: https://ncvhs.hhs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Public-Comments-Standards-Subcommittee-Meeting-August-16-2021.pdf

RFC Themes (Initial Review)

TOPICS/THEMES:
Standards Adoption Innovation
Promote Interoperability
Testing/ROI
Funding
Pilots
Social Risk Data
Patient Matching/Patient ID

ADOPTION OF STANDARDS:

- Adopt standard for attachments/publish attachments rule
- Adopt standard for acknowledgements
- Adopt NCPDP Script standard for pharmacy under HIPAA
- Adopt HL7 standard for dental transactions under HIPAA vs. X12
- Evaluate standards prior to adoption/conduct testing/demonstrate ROI
- Provide funding for pilots
- Understand benefits/uses of existing code sets
- Adopt UDI (unique device identifier)

POLICY:

- Regulations assume all entities are covered entities
- Policies need to be fleshed out to support implementation
- Standardize prior authorization and supporting documentation through regulation
- Focus on patient centered care
- Incorporate best practices for privacy while enabling use of third party apps
- Create national consent model

INTEROPERABILITY:

- Work with standards development organizations to develop and test standards
- Increase exchanges with public health organizations; support public health infrastructure
- Create health care directory/end point directory
- Patient Matching/Patient Identity
- Standardize and leverage social risk data

Discussion