

Collaborative for Performance Measure Integration with EHR Systems Meeting Summary April 24, 2008

The Collaborative for Performance Measure Integration with EHR Systems (Collaborative) met in Washington DC, April 24, 2008, from 9 AM – 3 PM. Objectives of the meeting were to:

- Gain an understanding of the objectives and current work of the Collaborative
- Become aware of the range of quality improvement achievements of expert EHR users
- Recognize potential challenges to implementation of performance measures using EHRs
- Participate in discussions to approach solutions to some of those challenges
- Identify next steps towards those solutions

At the beginning of the meeting, Charlene Underwood, on behalf of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society's (HIMSS) Electronic Health Record Vendors Association (EHRVA), announced that its Executive Committee and membership has accepted the Collaborative's invitation to become a full Collaborative co-sponsor. Since the Collaborative's inception, the EHRVA has been integrally involved in Collaborative activities. The Collaborative now is an activity co-sponsored by three organizations, the [American Medical Association](#), [HIMSS EHRVA](#), and the [National Committee for Quality Assurance](#).

Meeting participants reviewed the 2008 Collaborative objectives and reaffirmed that continuing to work toward the development of an XML representation for performance measures is a necessary and desirable goal. In 2008, the Collaborative continues to work towards the goal of an agreed standard way of expressing performance measures suitable for use in EHRs with the following activities:

1. With EHR vendor community, complete needed revisions to XML representation for performance measures:
 - further validate and refine the existing XML schemas and the Reference Guide
 - update the XML to accommodate measures with different data attributes
2. With sophisticated users of performance measures and EHR systems, analyze best practices:
 - determine the reliability of various data elements and their sources
 - determine characteristics of successful implementations of performance measure specifications in EHR systems by organizations and define existing gaps not currently being addressed
3. Devise and implement communication strategy, including holding 2 in-person meetings, Spring and early Fall
 - increase EHR vendor membership
 - increase membership of sophisticated users of EHR systems for quality improvement
 - ensure wider visibility of the work of the Collaborative
4. Provide input to organizations that are working toward developing data extraction models for performance measurement and reporting
5. With others, consider relationships between clinical guidelines, clinical decision support, and performance measures.

Jon White, MD, Director of the Health Information Technology Portfolio for the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#), opened the program with a presentation titled "[Integrating performance measurement health IT: Where we are today](#)," in which he reviewed recent history in this area and AHRQ involvement. He concluded that the right organizations are involved and that the Collaborative is headed in the right direction.

[L. Gregory Pawlson, MD, MPH](#), reviewed with Collaborative members measures that have been selected for testing in 2008. Dr. Pawlson's presentation also is available on the Collaborative Web site.

[Delane Heldt](#) provided information on feedback that was received about the development of the measure specification format.

A panel of speakers presented a program segment titled "Approaches to quality measures in EHRs: Examples of achievements and roadblocks." They offered experiences in a variety of different care settings, using different EHRs, and considered issues of measure interpretation, technical challenges, analysis tools, use of point-of-care decision support tools derived from measures, and use of exclusions/exceptions. The panel included:

- [Fred Rachman, MD, MPH](#), of the Alliance of Chicago Community Health Services
- [Stephen Persell, MD, MPH](#), of the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
- [Jesse Singer, DO](#), of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- [MaryAnne Peifer, MD, MSIS](#), of the Lehigh Valley Physician Group and Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network
- [Kathryn L. Coltin, MPH](#), a quality measures consultant to the Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative and the Massachusetts Health Quality Partners
- Karen Kmetik, PhD, of Clinical Performance Evaluation at the American Medical Association, presenting the Cardio-HIT research project.

Each speaker's PowerPoint presentation is available on the Collaborative Web site.

Collaborative members agreed that [remaining issues that require resolution](#) include to:

- Refine further the XML schema
- Resolve coding issues
- Select standards that will apply
- Teach people to use EHRs
- Assess how well EHRs are being used
- Clarify how performance measures and quality improvement intersect
- Identify and align financial incentives
- Address possible unintended consequences
- Clarify similarities and differences between performance measurement and clinical decision support
- Find a way of "meeting half way" so that creating functionality becomes a partnership between EHR vendor products and the users of EHR products
- Determine how performance measurement can drive both clinical quality improvement and reimbursement
- Ensure that practice work flow changes support the purpose of performance measures
- Ensure that measures are consistent so that they can be used for comparative purposes
- Address data aggregation issues
- Define the "ideal state"

Two Listserv discussion groups are being established to support Collaborative member discussions related to technical issues and measure users. The Technical Issues Listserv will support vendors and other interested parties and the Measure Users Listserv will support networking, sharing of success stories, implementation issues and problem-solving. Collaborative members will receive by email invitations to subscribe to either or both Listserv groups.

The next meeting of the Collaborative will take place in Chicago on October 16, 2008. Collaborative members will receive information about the meeting by email, including the meeting's exact location. If you wish to receive information about the activities of the Collaborative, or you wish to join one of the Listservs, please contact Tom Murray at <mailto:Thomas.Murray@ama-assn.org>.