American Health Information Community

Chronic Care Workgroup

http://www.hhs.gov/healthit**/ahic/cc_main.html**

Workgroup Membership

- **Co-chairs:**
  - Craig Barrett   Intel
  - Mark McClellan   Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- **Members:**
  - Madhulka Agarwal   Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Ed Cameron   U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - Mike Crist   Laboratory Corporation of America
  - Dan Jones   University of Mississippi Medical Center
  - Shaygan Kheradpir   Verizon
  - Herb Kuhn   Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
  - Eric Larson   Group Health of Puget Sound
  - Mohan Nair   Regence Group
  - Mary Naylor   University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing
  - John Rother   AARP
  - Jeff Rideout   Cisco
  - Jay Sanders   Global Telemedicine Group
  - Tony Trenkle   Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- **Office of the National Coordinator:**
  - Karen Bell

Workgroup Charges

- **Broad Charge for the Workgroup:**
  - Make recommendations to the Community to deploy widely available, secure technology solutions for remote monitoring and assessment of patients and for communication between clinicians about patients.

- **Specific Charge for the Workgroup:**
  - Make recommendations to the Community so that within one year, widespread use of secure messaging, as appropriate, is fostered as a means of communication between clinicians and patients about care delivery.

This presentation is focused on the Specific Charge.

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Enablers to Accomplish Specific Charge

- Geography which can leverage existing infrastructures (existing business models, multi-stakeholder collaborations, high awareness of HIT value)

- Clinicians who care for high percentage of patients with chronic illnesses

- Availability of secure messaging (excluding open email) between patients and their clinicians in physician offices with care management supports

- Decreased malpractice risk from better documentation

- Reimbursement of clinician time and expertise for less costly care than that provided in office or ER setting

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Recommendations to Support Enablers

- Office of the National Coordinator (through existing contracts) to define optimal solutions to address technical barriers related to interoperability, identification of users and security

- CMS to identify opportunities in existing programs and projects to evaluate value of secure messaging

- Community to receive input re: licensure reciprocity across state lines for purposes of secure messaging to address this legal barrier

CC-5

Open Issues

- How best to evaluate effectiveness?

- What infrastructures and programs could be leveraged and where?

- How to define secure messages that could be considered reimbursable?

- How best to address workflow issues in the office setting?

CC-6

Next Steps

- Review existing information on secure messaging – receptive environments, business infrastructures, evaluations – to support potential reimbursement policies

- Research outcomes associated with secure messaging

- Identify local, state, federal entities, national organizations, and private entities that could support the recommendations

- Develop conceptual framework for transition to broad charge

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