

July 16, 2009

AT LAST! – Meaningful Use Draft Recommendations Released

After much anticipation and speculation, the HIT Policy Committee today unveiled its recommendations on the definition of “meaningful use” of electronic health records for 2011, 2013 and 2015.

It’s interesting to note that there was lively discussion among the HIT Policy Committee members to recommend moving up some of the criteria from 2013 to 2011 to make 2011 requirements more robust.

Next week, the recommendations will be reviewed by the HIT Standards Committee, and the Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) capabilities which focus on key business information exchange requirements will be added in the mix as the information exchange standards recommendations to meet meaningful use. Note they have carefully separated out the system capability requirements for certification versus what measurement criteria the hospital or eligible professional needs to do to meet meaningful use criteria.

Still to be defined is the length of time to be at “meaningful use” before qualification for incentives is met. *David Blumenthal*, MD, MPP, pointed out to the group that this is the first of many iterations on the journey to the final definition of meaningful use to be created by December 31, 2009.

A helpful seven-page “matrix” overview of the proposed details regarding the definition of meaningful use is available [here](#) on the Department of Health & Human Services’ HIT web site. (*The matrix is a PDF best printed landscape on legal-sized paper.*) Other information including a three-page preamble to the Meaningful Use Work Group’s definition is available [here](#).

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is seeking comments on this preliminary definition. Comments are due by 5 p.m. Eastern on **June 26, 2009** and are to be no more than 1,000 words in length. Send them to MeaningfulUse@hhs.gov with the subject line “Meaningful Use.”

Eclipsys will be reviewing the information on meaningful use closely to ensure our EHR solutions meet all of the applicable requirements now or through upcoming enhancements. For continuing updates, see future issues of this publication, watch for announcements of upcoming Eclipsys webinars, and go to our special ARRA-related web site, www.eclipsysarra.com.