



The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology
Health IT Advisory Committee

Recap of ONC Interoperability Forum – Interoperability Efforts and Barriers

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Agenda

- Interoperability Forum Overview and Recap
- Highlights from Interoperability Forum Tracks

Interoperability Forum Overview

- ONC hosted the 2nd Interoperability Forum August 6-8th in Washington, DC
- Event Goals
 - » Learn about recent efforts to advance interoperability nationwide
 - » Identify concrete actions in response to current interoperability barriers
- Speakers focused on several themes:
 - » Improving individual's access to health information
 - » Addressing public health priorities
 - » Reducing provider burden
- Seven tracks were co-led by industry leaders and supported by ONC experts
- Track discussions were recapped on 3rd day of event

Event Recap

- Changes from 1st Interoperability Forum (2017)
- Keynotes
- [National Partnership for Women and Families and ONC video](#) – Current and Future State of Consumer Access to their Health Information
- Demos
 - » Innovative health IT tools – 360x and closed loop referrals
 - » Tools to address public health priorities – opioids, emergency preparedness
 - » Individual access to health information – Blue Button 2.0, consumer tools
 - » Burden reduction – FHIR to support population level data access

Interoperability Forum Metrics

- **400+ in-person attendees, 600+ virtual attendees**
- **21 breakout session leads**
- **25 presenters**
- **43 panelists**
- **#InteropForum trending on Twitter in Washington DC on 8/6/18**

Interoperability Forum Tracks

- **Patient Matching**
- **Interoperability Measurement**
- **Security**
- **Content Interoperability**
- **Clinician Experience with Interoperability**
- **Interoperability Infrastructure**
- **Using Standards to Advance Research**

Patient Matching

Recap	Key Points	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussed patient matching challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inaccurate matching is not just a technology problem – there is a significant human component	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Train staff, engage patients, strengthen care coordination, and encourage collaboration as part of comprehensive strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlighted matching challenges associated with pediatric populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are a number of unique issues related to matching and interoperability of pediatric data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advance standards and support industry best practices in pediatric data capture and exchange
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlighted use of new technologies such as referential matching, biometrics, and artificial intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All technical approaches, including innovative ones, require good data quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gain industry consensus on patient matching definitions and metrics and promote transparency, measurement, and reporting

Interoperability Measurement

Recap	Key Points	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current state of interoperability measurement, gaps and collective actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited data available on exchange of patient health info and exchange between providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test novel approaches to measurement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standards Measurement: priorities, current measurement efforts and possible future approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are emerging approaches to standards measurement, including recent surveys from ONC and HL7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize measurement of standards through use cases that impact interoperability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measurement of exchange activity through national networks and consumer-mediated exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exchange activity reporting among national networks and individuals' use of apps is limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase collaboration among national data collection efforts to address gaps

Security

Recap	Key Points	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussed security challenges, opportunities and potential for blockchain/distributed ledger technology (DLT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blockchain/DLT has renewed interest in cryptographic techniques, would benefit from proof-of-concept and value testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blockchain/DLT development focusing on proving user protection and transaction privacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Privacy and security considerations for Open APIs & Patient-Directed Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Industry adoption of user-managed access controls could be improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leverage standards evolving across multiple industries and encourage acceptance of data from external sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identity and Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore potential of Blockchain/DLT for self-sovereign identities• Need to establish trust in identity-proofing processes occurring outside the blockchain/DLT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an ethics framework for representing and using digital identity

Content Interoperability

Recap	Key Points	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessed the quality of USCDI content in C-CDA and FHIR and gathered feedback for direction setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It's helpful for USCDI data classes to have common priorities and be tied to several use cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on current USCDI priorities and finish what has been started before adding new elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Current content validation tooling and explore future opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Working issues at the developer level is preferable to site-specific level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage continuous feedback on USCDI
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Successes, challenges and how to implement continuous improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Certification is done on demo systems so variation of configuration is inconsistent with certified capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider readiness and simplicity of data elements

Clinician Experience with Interoperability

Recap	Key Points	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current state of transitions between acute and ambulatory care settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providers must find value for sending and receiving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve processes to ensure that quality data is going to the right place
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closed loop referrals including 360X	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referrals can be completed through a multistep exchange process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue testing and focus on improving workflow so exchange happens without special effort
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrated sharing 42 CFR Part 2 data and use of clinical decision support tools such as CDS Hooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited 42 CFR Part 2 sharing and implementation of CDS Hooks but both hold promise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support additional implementation and testing of DS4P, consent and CDS Hooks

Interoperability Infrastructure

Recap	Key Points	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of HIE networks and open APIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important to create business models that engage consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify priority use cases for HIE networks/open APIs and consumer access
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barriers and challenges to broad-scale implementation and use of networks and APIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenging to measure speed of network adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider who can vet consumer-facing apps and how they can connect to exchange networks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify strategies to address barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential for more data sources in C-CDA but many EHRs lack places to store “other data”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop clear business cases to limit overly broad data collection, use existing standards

Using Standards to Advance Research

Recap	Key Points	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Joshua Denny, Vanderbilt presented on All of Us research program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Most standards are oriented to clinical care, not research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Encourage research community to move relevant standards to maturity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bob Freimuth, Mayo Clinic presented on Sync for Genes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Researchers would benefit from a cohesive set of standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure that standards have enough data granularity to support research
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Group discussion – implementing and adopting standards for research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">New standards do not need to be created in order to enable research, current standards need to be adopted and used	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify new approaches for encouraging standards adoption in the research community



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Questions?

