



Spokane County MEDICAL SOCIETY

Orange Flag Building • 104 S. Freya St., Suite 114 • Spokane, WA 99202-4868 • (509) 325-5010 • Fax (509) 325-5409

MEDICAL INFORMATICS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2010

The SCMS Medical Informatics Committee met at 6:45 am on February 4, 2010, in Classroom 266 at the Deaconess Health Education Center. Those present include David Henzler, Bev Roberts, Glen Stream, Frank Otto, Craig Nielsen, Gordon Decker, David Bare, Sam Palpant, Mike McDaniels, Jac Davies and Keith Baldwin. Kevin Kavanaugh served as Committee Chair. George McAlister was staff.

CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 3, 2009 MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 a.m. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of December 3, 2009.

1. Beacon Community Project Update – Jac Davies

An application was successfully submitted from our community requesting \$19.5 million from the Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program. As a reminder, Beacon will provide funding to communities to build and strengthen existing health information technology (HIT) infrastructures and exchange capabilities in communities that are already well advanced in HIE. Funded communities must already be national leaders in the advancement of HIT and applicants must be prepared to start and complete activities quickly. Partnering with SAIC to select and implement a health technology solution (<http://www.saic.com/health/healthit/>) the HIE portion of the request covers eastern Washington, north/central Washington and north Idaho and has a very aggressive time frame for implementation. The care coordination portion of the request establishes an infrastructure to track patients, and focuses specifically on diabetes. Reporting measures (quality reporting) are also included, covering all key elements of the meaningful use definition.

2. Washington HIE “Next Steps” Update – All

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) has designated OneHealthPort (OHP) to serve as the lead health information exchange (HIE) organization. One Health Port’s model for Washington State will be to connect disparate regional HIE’s throughout the state to one established statewide HIE program. HCA announced on February 12, 2010, that they received a stimulus grant from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC). The \$11.3 million award comes from the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). HCA will use these funds to support planning and implementation of a common, shared health information technology infrastructure in Washington State with the understanding that secure health information exchange (HIE) will help providers improve clinical care and services.

3. CMS Meaningful Use Criteria for EMR Incentives – All

Ever since the release of the proposed final definition of “Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records”, as well as specifications on what constitutes a Certified EHR, understanding and adoption of these requirements have become critical. Physicians who become “meaningful users” of qualified EHRs and who accept Medicare patients could receive as much as \$44,000 over five years, starting in 2011. Physicians who have at least 30 percent Medicaid patients and are meaningful users of EHRs could receive \$63,750 over five years. The 556-page rule proposes three stages of EHR adoption, beginning in 2011. The first stage contains 25 measures for compliance, including requirements for computerized physician order entry, electronic claims submission, and patient record access. The committee felt that the Spokane County Medical Society could take the lead in disseminating information on how these requirements impact those physician practices that are interested in qualifying for incentive payments.

- Jac Davies said that she would discuss this issue with others at INHS and put together a draft, one page flier on “meaningful use”.
- The committee felt that SCMS, as a trusted source, could communicate this issue on several tiers, e.g., put together a list of information resources; information presented for the small non-IT user office at the

September 2010 NMIS meeting in Spokane; information in the monthly newsletter; a resource section in Medicor; perhaps a Facebook page or Wiki on meaningful use, etc.

- The committee also felt that SCMS should ask several physicians to write about “meaningful use” from their perspective, e.g., Glen Stream (based on his already prepared presentation) and David Henzler (from a small practice perspective). Jac Davies could also offer some valuable information from her perspective.
4. Roundtable –All
- a. Glen Stream suggested that we reserve a future agenda item to discuss the definition of “eligible provider” under Medicare and Medicaid, e.g., office based, hospital based, and hospital affiliate.
 - b. It was also suggested that we need to communicate more information on ICD-10 coding, as it affects ways in which physicians do business.
 - c. Another future agenda item is to discuss the regional extension center at Qualis Health (<http://www.qualishealth.org/>). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced grant awards to a select group of Regional Extension Centers across the nation. The center at Qualis Health is among the first to be funded, and it will provide an integrated, comprehensive suite of services to providers across Idaho and Washington.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by the individual whose name appears below:

Kevin Kavanaugh, MD, Chair