Standards (including Vocabulary): Past ~ Present ~ Bright Future?

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Content standards include:

◆ Data elements, e.g., gender, presenting complaint)

◆ Descriptions of entities, e.g., birth certificate

◆ Messages, e.g., lab test result

◆ Allowable values for data elements, which can be entire *vocabularies*

◆ Mappings between different value sets, e.g., between SNOMED and ICD-9-CM

◆ Information models that define the context in which standards are used

◆ Survey questions and any coded responses

◆ Guideline, protocol, and algorithm formats

This topic has been addressed before …

- ◆ **1991 – IOM**:*The Computer-Based Patient Record*
- ◆ **1994 – AMIA Board of Directors**
- ◆ **1995 – PHS**: *Making a Powerful Connection*
- ◆ **1996 – Congress**: *HIPAA*
- ◆ **2000 – IOM**: *To Err is Human*
- ◆ **2000 – NCVHS**: *Report on Standards for PMRI*
- ◆ **2001 – IOM**: *Crossing the Quality Chasm*
- ◆ **2001 – AMIA Congress**: *PH Informatics Agenda*
- ◆ **2002 – NCVHS:** *PMRI recommendations (1ˢᵗ Set)*
- ◆ **2002 – AMIA Congress**: *Drug Nomenclature/Information*
- ◆ **2002 – AAMC conference**: *IT Enabling Clinical Research*
- ◆ **2003 – CHI eGov:** *U.S. gov't target standards (1ˢᵗ set)*
- ◆ **2003 – Connecting for Health**: *Standards Wk.Gr.Report*

To summarize…. (1)

◆ Establish a mechanism for designating uniform National Standards

◆ Pick best available as starting point

◆ Broaden participation in standards development

◆ Support development, maintenance, and low/no cost distribution

To summarize…. (2)

◆Promote use and improvement through:

- Early Federal adoption
- Conformance and production testing
- Demonstration projects, Cost/benefit research
- Financial incentives

◆Coordinate development and maintenance to achieve comprehensive, non-overlapping, interlocking standards

Progress to Date - 1

◆ **Establish a mechanism for designating uniform National Standards**

- **1996** – HIPAA regulations established as mechanism for administrative standards

- **2000** – NCVHS recommends federal guidance and early adoption – *not* regulation - for clinical standards

- **2002** – Consolidated Health Informatics (CHI) eGov project becomes vehicle for adopting *target* U.S. government-wide clinical standards

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Progress to date - 2

◆**Pick best available as starting point**

- **2000 –** Final HIPAA transactions and code sets regulation published (effective October 2003)
- **2002 –** NCVHS recommends adoption of 4 clinical messaging standards
- **2003 March –** CHI adopts NCVHS recommendations, plus LOINC, as target U.S. government-wide standards – *more coming*
  - http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/gtob/health_informatics.htm

Progress to date - 3

◆ **Broaden participation in standards development**

- **1999 –** Public Health Data Standards Consortium
- **2002 –** IOM Patient Safety Data Standards Committee
- **2002 –** Connecting for Health

Progress to date - 3

◆**Support development, maintenance, and low/no cost distribution**

◆Federal support for vocabulary

- **1999** – LOINC contract
- **2002** – RxNorm development
- **2003** – SNOMED CT contract & license
    - http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls
- **2004** – Uniform distribution of standard clinical vocabularies and HIPAA code sets in UMLS

Progress to date - 4

◆**Support development, maintenance, and low/no cost distribution**

◆ HL7

- Increased pace and scope of activity, e.g.,
  - Implementation guides; Reference Information Model; Templates; Guidelines; Decision support rules; Electronic Health Record
- Additional financial support

Much remains to be done

◆ More message implementation guides, other vocabularies, etc.

◆ The "rest" of the content standards

◆ Growing HL7's capacity while retaining its great strength:

- standards developers who will actually use the standards they are developing.

The *Real* Challenges

◆Promote use and improvement through:
  - Early Federal adoption
  - Conformance and production testing
  - Demonstration projects, Cost/benefit research
  - Financial incentives

◆Coordinate development and maintenance to achieve comprehensive, non-overlapping, interlocking standards

◆**Solve the "update" problem**