



Pharmacy e-Health Information Technology Collaborative

Federal Advisory Committee HIT Policy Committee (HITPC) Meeting, July 10, 2012

Comments made by Shelly Spiro, Pharmacy e-HIT Collaborative Director

My name is Shelly Spiro; I'm the Director of the Pharmacy e-Health Information (HIT) Collaborative representing over 250,000 individuals as members of the majority of the national pharmacy associations and key pharmacy organizations involved in HIT. In Jodi Daniel's (Director, Office of Policy and Planning) presentation she mentioned engaging non-eligible providers in the meaningful use (MU) of the electronic health record (EHR). The Pharmacy e-HIT Collaborative participated in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program work group activity mentioned by Jodi. In addition, the Collaborative members participate in the Long Term and Post Acute Care (LTPAC) and Behavioral Health initiatives providing medication related expertise for these practice settings.

Pharmacists play an integral role in the inter-professional health care team in providing medication related patient care services outside and in conjunction with the prescription dispensing functions. Similar to the LTPAC HIT Collaborative Roadmap document presented earlier by Larry Wolfe, the pharmacy industry has a Roadmap, "*The Roadmap for Pharmacy Health Information Technology Integration in U.S. Health Care*". The Collaborative will be glad to provide copies to the HITPC members (http://www.pharmacyhit.org/pdfs/11-392_RoadMapFinal_singlepages.pdf). This roadmap outlines the goals, objectives and strategies for pharmacists to adopt and implement the MU of the EHR. Late last year, the US Public Health Service released a report delineating the mechanisms to optimize the role of pharmacists on the health care team (http://www.pharmacist.com/Content/ContentFolders3/NewsReleases/2012/JanMar/USPHS_Report_USSG.pdf). This report received support from the US Surgeon General; Dr. Regina Benjamin (http://www.pharmacist.com/Content/ContentFolders3/NewsReleases/2012/JanMar/Support_Letter_from_USSG.pdf) and provides the evidence policy makers need to support utilization of pharmacists as an essential part of the health care team.

Pharmacists are trained and through their access to patients are in a unique position to assist in engaging patient in their health care. Pharmacists are one of the largest providers of immunization administration across the U.S. In addition, pharmacists' involvement in medication related care coordination can provide significant patient care quality improvement. The Collaborative hopes the HITPC and the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) will agree engagement of pharmacists as non-eligible providers of the MU of EHR will improve patient care and help other Eligible Professionals meet their MU incentives.

The Roadmap and the US Public Health Service report can be found on the Collaborative's website at www.pharmacyhit.org.

No Response.