DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HIT Standards Committee; Schedule for the Assessment of HIT Policy Committee

Recommendations

AGENCY: Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 3003(b)(3) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

of 2009 mandates that the HIT Standards Committee develop a schedule for the

assessment of policy recommendations developed by the HIT Policy Committee and

publish it in the Federal Register. This notice fulfills the requirements of Section

3003(b)(3) and updates the schedule posted in the Federal Register on May 8, 2013. In

anticipation of receiving recommendations originally developed by the HIT Policy

Committee, the HIT Standards Committee has created six (6) workgroups to analyze the

following areas: (1) content standards; (2) semantic standards; (3) transport and security;

(4) implementation, certification, and testing; (5) architecture, services and application

program interfaces (APIs); (6) a steering committee to provide continuity across all other

groups. Other groups are convened to address specific issues as needed.

HIT Standards Committee's Schedule for the Assessment of HIT Policy

Committee Recommendations is as follows:

The National Coordinator will establish priority areas based in part on

recommendations received from the HIT Policy Committee regarding health

information technology standards, implementation specifications, and/or certification criteria. Once the HIT Standards Committee is informed of those priority areas, it will:

(A) Direct the appropriate workgroup or other special group to develop a report for the HIT Standards Committee, to the extent possible, within 90 days, which will include, among other items, the following:

(1) An assessment of what standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria are currently available to meet the priority area;

(2) An assessment of where gaps exist (*i.e.*, no standard is available or harmonization is required because more than one standard exists) and identify potential organizations that have the capability to address those gaps; and

(3) a timeline, which may also account for NIST testing, where appropriate, and include dates when the HIT Standards Committee is expected to issue recommendation(s) to the National Coordinator.

(B) Upon receipt of a report from a workgroup or other special group, the HIT Standards Committee will:

(1) Accept the timeline provided by the subcommittee, and, if necessary, revise it; and

(2) assign subcommittee(s) to conduct research and solicit testimony, where appropriate, and issue recommendations to the full committee in a timely manner.

(C) Advise the National Coordinator, consistent with the accepted timeline in (B)(1) and after NIST testing, where appropriate, on standards, implementation specifications, and/or certification criteria, for the National Coordinator's review and determination

whether or not to endorse the recommendations, and possible adoption of the proposed recommendations by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The standards and related topics which the HIT Standards Committee is expected to address over the coming year include, but may not be limited to: quality measurement; the extended portfolio of standards for the nationwide health information network; distributed queries and results; radiology; consumer-mediated information exchange; public health; data portability; and a process for the maintenance of standards.

For a listing of upcoming HIT Standards Committee meetings, please visit the ONC web site at http://www.healthit.gov/facas/calendar.

Notice of this schedule is given under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111-5), section 3003.

Dated: August 18, 2014.

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