
Lantana Consulting Group Testimony to the Certification and Adoption Workgroup of the HIT Policy Committee

December 12, 2013

Chairmen Probst and Wolf, and members of the Certification and Adoption Workgroup,

On behalf of Lantana Consulting Group, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on a proposed long-term and post-acute care (LTPAC) certification program.

Lantana Consulting Group (Lantana) provides services and software for standards-based health information exchange. We have built our expertise through more than a decade of involvement in standards development and deployment. Lantana's work focuses largely around interoperability specifications, although we see interoperability specifications not so much an end in and of themselves, but a means to an end; that end being a more data-driven healthcare system. Lantana's mission is to transform healthcare through health information. Our comments focus on those areas of particular relevance to our expertise with the Health Level Seven (HL7) Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) and electronic clinical quality measure reporting standards.

We suggest leveraging the Meaningful Use (MU) program to improve long-term and post-acute care (LTPAC) health information technology (HIT) capabilities and patient-centered care. This testimony suggests tactics for leveraging Stage 2 requirements while moving toward Stage 3 objectives. It addresses candidate electronic health record (EHR) certification criteria and clinical quality measures (CQMs) in the context of a vision for coordinated care base on a cohesive electronic record and in the context of a comprehensive transition strategy.

In summary,

- LTPAC EHRs must be included as part of the broader HIT interoperability strategy to support coordination of care.
- Information required for LTPAC quality measurement should leverage clinical information recorded in the patient record.
- This same clinical information must be made available for transitions of care.
- Public and private payers should agree on and promote consistent and efficient methods for electronic reporting of quality and health status measures across settings of care.¹
- These goals are achievable when we harmonize LTPAC reporting requirements with clinical data required for patient care.

Lantana is pleased to be offered the opportunity to testify before the Health IT Policy Committee's Certification and Adoption Workgroup. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at crystal.kallem@lantanagroup.com or 515-992-3616.

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¹ Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) Foundation. *2013 WEDI Report* (December 5, 2013). Accessed December 10, 2013 <http://wedi.org/topics/2013-wedi-report#areas>.