

Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Health Information
Technology Activities

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AHRQ's Mission/Role re HIT



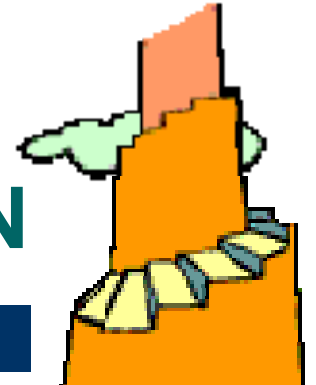
- Over the past 35 years, AHRQ and its predecessor agencies have made development of informatics an agency priority.
- AHRQ-supported research has played a central role in identifying the need for improvements where health IT was applicable.
- As the Nation's lead research agency on the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care in America, AHRQ has a central role in the movement to adopt health IT.

HIT Program History/Targets



- The initiative awarded its first grants and contracts in October 2004, and to date, includes more than \$166 million in grants and contracts in 41 States to support and stimulate investment in health IT.
- AHRQ's health IT initiative targets communities and regions as they plan and implement health IT projects.

APPROACH/STEPS BEING TAKEN



- AHRQ's three-fold approach is to:
 1. Use knowledge transfer from early adopters to new adopters
 2. Provide TA to those AHRQ funds, and
 3. Research and evaluation component -- ID successful technologies/strategies so later iterations don't repeat mistakes but builds on learning.
- AHRQ's HIT mission:
 - Identify challenges to health IT adoption and use
 - Focus on solutions/best practices for making health IT work
 - Develop tools to help hospitals/clinicians incorporate new IT successfully

AHRQ's Current HIT Portfolio: State and Regional Demonstrations



Six States have been awarded \$5M contracts

Colorado, Delaware, Indiana, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah

\$1 million a year each over 5 years

- ✓ Purposes -- support State/regional data sharing/interoperability activities
-- demonstrate measurable improvements in care resulting from clinical data exchange.

Demonstrations allow:

- ✓ Access to patient information at the point of care
- ✓ Connect systems of various local health care providers for better care coordination
- ✓ Public and private health care providers to share patient data.

HIT Grants/National Resource Center for Health IT



- AHRQ awarded +100, 3-year grants for planning, implementation, and testing the value of health IT investment in the context of quality improvement or patient safety.
- Included smaller investments that test the clinical impact of specific instances of health IT implementation.

NRC-HIT, a 5-year contract (2004-2009):

- Provides technical assistance and resource support to AHRQ and HRSA grantees and contractors.
- Develops models and tools.
- Maintains knowledge library and produces case studies and other materials to capture lessons learned.
- Hosts national teleconferences on current issues in HIT adoption

Privacy/Security Solutions for Interoperable Health Information Exchange

(2005-2007)

- AHRQ awarded a contract to RTI International in 2005) to address privacy and security policy questions with HIEs.
- Under the contract, RTI subcontracted with 33 States and Puerto Rico to assist them with doing the following:
 - Incorporate State/community interests
 - Promote stakeholder identification of practical solutions
 - Implement strategies through open/ consensus-building process.
 - Leave behind in States/communities a knowledge base about privacy and security issues in electronic HIE that endures to inform future HIE activities

Harnessing Technology to Improve Medicaid and SCHIP Enrollment and Retention Practices

The Kaiser Commission on
Medicaid and the Uninsured
The Children's Partnership

May 2007

Recommendations



1. Maximize the impact of existing federal technology initiatives
 - “MITA... is developing a framework to guide government technology investments to ensure they are cost-effective and support responsive, top quality service delivery...”
 - “Technology exists to make Medicaid and SCHIP work as they should...”
 - “Putting the new tools to work will require a strong commitment from federal and state leaders to make the necessary investments and to work collaboratively...”
 - “In the end, families, taxpayers and government will all reap the benefits...”

Recommendations

3. States should take on the challenge set by the relevant federal initiatives... MITA... learn from them, and examine verified best practices and industry-recognized methodologies to determine what solutions work best for them.
4. Let policy goals guide technology choices
5. Engage a coalition of stakeholders
6. Put aside the business-as-usual-approach
7. It is up to the States to take the next steps, to think outside the box and develop new frameworks and architectures

