



Carefx's Recommendation on Information Exchange: The Essential Ingredient for Meaningful Use

Statement by Andrew Hurd, Chairman and CEO of Carefx

Providers will witness “significant and measurable improvements in population health through a transformed health care delivery system,” according to recommendations from the Meaningful Use (MU) Workgroup to the HIT Policy Committee of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

The MU workgroup delineated five objectives, including improved care coordination. Achieving these objectives comes through “bending the curve towards transformed health” through data capture and sharing, advanced clinical processes, and improved outcomes. To improve care coordination in 2011, providers must exchange key clinical information and perform medication reconciliation.

In order to achieve these goals, from 2011 to 2015, Carefx advises ONC to take these steps:

- **Champion systems that overcome data integration challenges.** Providers are under pressure to leverage existing technology investments and connect disparate systems to facilitate interoperability and secure information exchange.
- **Analyze care delivery from the provider's point of view.** Clinicians struggle to access patient information due to varied navigation systems, information sets, presentation formats and multiple sign-on screens.
- **Overcome provider resistance to system use.** Recommend systems that automate context and workflow, simplify processes within clinical applications and comply with privacy and security requirements.
- **Emphasize the need for swift provider action.** Urge providers to act now to qualify for incentives and prepare for HIT-enabled reform through 2015. Suggest systems that offer rapid deployment and early demonstration of MU.



- **Connect system use with MU objectives.** Recommend systems that improve workflow through context and identity management and expand options for information exchange. The 2013 care coordination objective specifies medication reconciliation and care summaries, while the 2015 objective promotes “access to comprehensive patient data from all available sources.”
- **Help providers cope with changing MU objectives and measures.** Counsel providers to adopt systems that allow for quick additions in functionality. Doing so will help them qualify for maximum incentives, avoid penalties and measure improved patient outcomes and safety.
- **Focus on the limits of MU objectives.** Expand selection criteria to include agility, interoperability and workflow impact. The best vendors respond to provider timetables, accommodate changing requirements and deliver a service-oriented architecture that complies with accepted standards and improves clinical workflow.

About Carefx Corporation

Carefx supports healthcare organizations in achieving their vision of advancing the quality and safety of patient care delivery through its Fusionfx solution suite. Fusionfx streamlines and simplifies clinical and business workflow and connects care providers to the information they need, where and when they need it. By managing care transitions and information gaps between diverse departments, systems and facilities, Fusionfx delivers crucial patient information with speed, efficiency and logic. Carefx supports more than 600 hospitals, health systems, regional health information organizations (RHIOs) and health information exchanges (HIEs) across North America and Europe.