Technology Issues: Getting Communities Connected

Continuity of Care Record (CCR) in Connected Health Communities

Get Connected Knowledge Forum
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What Is the CCR?

- A snapshot in time: A core data set of the most relevant facts about a patient's healthcare.
- A patient record summary
- Organized and transportable.
- Prepared by a practitioner at the conclusion of a healthcare encounter, (optional)
- To enable the next practitioner to readily access such information.
- May be prepared, displayed, and transmitted on paper or electronically.
The Roadmap to Patient Safety, Quality & Efficiency*

"End Game" "Nirvana" "Happiness" "Future State"
Physician and Patient Satisfaction

EHR with Portable Documents, Full Functionality, Clinical Data Exchange, HL7: CDA and Decision Support

Personal Health Record

"Disease Management" with Specific Physician Performance Measures

CCR Version 1.8 Current State
E-Prescribing Current State
Practice Management Current State
Basic EHR Current State
Secure E-mail Current State

*Assisted by Information Technology Tools: "Glue and Glue",
the Alliance, the Massachusetts Medical Society,
The Mass Health Data Consortium, and Technology Partners.

The CCR...

- Provides information that is
  - Appropriate, succinct, organized, and up-to-date
  - Interoperable through use of specified XML code
  - A necessary bridge to a different environment, often with new practitioners who know little about the patient.

- Will address specific domains through extensions: long-term care, acute care, disease management, personal health record, etc.
Development of the CCR

- Unique standards development effort
- Consortium of sponsoring organizations
  - ASTM International
  - Massachusetts Medical Society
  - HIMSS
  - American Academy of Family Physicians
  - American Academy of Pediatrics
  - American Medical Association
  - Patient Safety Institute
  - American Health Care Association
  - National Association for the Support of LTC
  - American Academy of Neurology
  - Additional sponsoring organizations pending

Sponsors represent:

- ANSI-recognized standards development organization
- Over 250,000 practitioners
- Over 13,000 IT professionals
- Over 12,000 institutions in the long-term care community that provide care to over 1.5 million elderly and disabled
- Patients, patient advocates, data sources, corporations, provider institutions....
This Unique Initiative Is...

- Patient-focused
  - Not about just what the system stores, but about what patient information is most relevant
- Provider-focused
  - Practitioners determine what information is most relevant
- Content-focused
  - Emphasis is on what providers need to know to deliver good patient care

This Unique Initiative Is Also...

- Stimulating cooperation among
  - Organizations, such as ASTM and HL7
  - Professional specialty organizations and their practitioners
  - Provider institutions
  - Vendors
- These diverse groups are working together
  - To develop and implement the CCR
  - To assure its interoperability
  - To develop demonstration projects
- Generating interest among
  - Patients and patient advocates
  - Federal agencies, payers, others
The CCR Is Not...

- An EHR
  - It is not a comprehensive electronic health record of a patient's lifelong health status and healthcare
  - It is not universally accessible
  - It does not have a universal patient identifier
- A progress note, discharge summary, or consultation
  - Not limited to information from a single episode or encounter
  - Not free-text based
- A loose dataset of health information
  - Core data is defined and specified in XML code

Why Is the CCR Needed?

- CCR addresses the lack of appropriate, succinct, and up-to-date patient health information for practitioners at a new point of care.
- CCR data is essential to good patient care and serves as a necessary bridge to a different environment, often with new practitioners who know little about the patient.
A Sample Data Group

- Medications
  - Definition: Generic name of current and relevant past prescribed substances, including OTC, herbal, and homeopathic substances. Brand name is inadequate.
  - Comments/Examples: Medication: Trimethoprim/Sulphamethozaxole
  - Required or Optional: Required
  - XML: <MEDICATION>

Extensions for Additional Content

- Enterprise and institution-specific, e.g., acute care, LTC
- Clinical specialty-specific, e.g., pediatrics, nursing
- Disease management
  - Disease-specific information, performance measures, guidelines, etc.
- Payers: financial information/attachments
- Patient-entered Personal Health Record
The CCR Can Stimulate EHR Adoption Because…

- Through specified XML code it is interoperable, so it will enable EHR systems to
  - Import and export all CCR data
  - Exchange the CCR between otherwise incompatible systems
  - Minimize workflow disruption for practitioners

More about XML and the CCR

- Through XML, CCR can be prepared, transmitted, and viewed
  - In a browser
  - In an HL7 CDA-compliant document
  - In secure email
  - In any XML-enabled word processing document
  - In multiple formats
- It can also be
  - Printed as a paper document
  - Stored on a portable storage device for use as a personal health record
Why So Much Interest in the CCR?

- Multiple uses
  - Referral, transfer, discharge, or other instance when patient is seen by another provider
  - Other uses include personal health record, research, and public health initiatives
- Introduction to electronic documentation and ultimately to EHR
  - Can stimulate use of computers in healthcare
- Flexibility
  - Whatever patient information is relevant can be accommodated

Why So Much Interest in the CCR?

- It is not a top-down approach
  - End-users, i.e., practitioners have participated in its design
  - The originator determines the relevant content
- It has support and leadership from organizations representing end-users, who are
  - Involving, advising, and assisting their constituents in its adoption
- It allows options for implementation
  - Paper or electronic
- It has potential to reduce inefficiencies and costs
  - Practitioners won't have to search for relevant information
  - Fewer repeat lab tests and other evaluations
Why So Much Interest in the CCR?

- It offers support for patient safety and reduced medical errors
  - Through easy access to critical data such as medications and allergies
- It encourages patient involvement and improved provider/patient relations
  - It is patient focused
  - It offers patients easy access to their health information
  - Patients don’t have to repeat same information over and over
  - It can help populate a personal health record, e.g. MEDEM iHR
  - It can stimulate the patient to become more involved in and informed about their healthcare
  - It can involve patient in transfer of information (e.g. USB)

In Summary:

- Practitioners, provider institutions, patients, vendors, and other stakeholders perceive the CCR as
  - Relevant
  - Doable
  - Transportable and interoperable
  - Valuable
Thank you!

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