Building New Capabilities Within Electronic Health Records to Improve Immunization-Related Workflow and Information Sharing with IIS
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Summary of Topic:
Integrating immunization-related capabilities in electronic health records (EHRs), which have been adopted by a majority of hospitals and physicians, is expected to improve clinical decisionmaking and information sharing with IIS'. The Immunization Integration Program, supported by CDC, is now advancing the incorporation of immunization-related capabilities in EHRs across the U.S.

Description of Session:
Presenters from CDC, the clinical, immunization information system (IIS), and electronic health record (EHR) vendor communities will share key outcomes from the HIMSS Immunization Integration Program (Program), a fully operational, independent, voluntary immunization-related software testing and recognition program. Supported by the CDC through a contract with Chickasaw Health Consulting and HIMSS, the Program advances the integration of immunization-related capabilities within EHRs, addressing clinical workflow and usability principles. The Program expects to improve clinical decision-making by providing more timely access to immunization data and enhancing information sharing between EHRs and IIS'.

Joyce Sensmeier (HIMSS) will present the project’s background including CDC’s vision for the program and development of the immunization-related software capabilities. Ms. Sensmeier will present HIMSS motivation for sponsoring the program and results to date (e.g., the number of software products that have been recognized). She will also describe the process HIMSS has developed to generate awareness and incentives for participation, management of the program with the help of a multi-stakeholder advisory panel, and future plans for the program including the validation and recognition process. Her discussion will include comments regarding sustainability of the program.

Marc Overhage (Cerner) will describe Cerner’s interest in participation in the Program from its inception to its full implementation, and the impact of the IIP on its organization. Dr. Overhage will focus on two aspects, the value of the program to address clinician workflow and usability and also the impact on improving data quality for data sharing with IIS’ and potential impact on onboarding efforts with IIS’.

Stuart Weinberg (Vanderbilt University) will discuss his experiences as curator of the AAP’s EHR Review Site and as developer of applications related to immunization record displays, clinical decision support, and interoperability with state registries.

Marybeth Kurilo (AIRA) will discuss how the HIMSS IIP program has improved collaboration among clinicians, EHR vendors and the IIS community. She will further address how efforts to standardize capabilities in the IIS community align with the IIP program.

Learning Objectives:
Understand software capabilities developed under the Program that are expected to improve immunization-related clinical workflow and decision-making and enhance information sharing between clinicians and IIS.

Gain insights on stakeholder perceptions regarding the value and benefits of the Program; and strategies used to drive participation among commercial EHR developers and vendors so that such capabilities can be made available to practicing clinicians.

Understand the critical success factors that led the Program to transition from concept to a fully operational, independent Program with participation among commercial software developers and vendors.

Learn how the Program can serve as a model for driving widespread adoption of interventions that can not only improve immunization rates, but also address other public health priorities.