



National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality

June 26, 2009

Dr. David Blumenthal
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
200 Independence Ave, SW Suite 729D
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality would like to applaud you for the broad and progressive formulation of "meaningful use" of health information technology, and the adoption of the National Priorities Partnership framework as the organizing approach for your measurement strategy. This approach, and particularly the emphasis on population health, care coordination, and patient engagement have the potential to make sure health information technology truly improves health for all segments of our population, including children.

We recommend that your measures specifically include and address issues of importance to child health. Pediatric support and experience with Electronic Health Records is crucial to further developments in health information technology. Specifically this would entail:

- a) Including a broader sample of population health registries in the population health arena, specifically BMI and smoking prevalence registries but also population disease registries such as for asthma (as has been done in Cambridge Health Alliance, and elsewhere) and nationally (as in the Cystic Fibrosis model).
- b) Assuring by 2013 that care coordination includes availability of information that is timely and accurate where information need be exchanged (primary care-specialty care communication, for example).
- c) Assure by 2015 within the care coordination arena agreements be documented between primary and specialty physicians indicating expectations and preferences for level of co-management.
- d) Assure that care coordination includes linkages to non-medical services where appropriate as well as medical specialists (such as schools and early intervention programs).
- e) Within the domain of patient and family engagement, tools and materials should be developmentally appropriate and promote the transition from child/adolescent to adult care.
- f) Within the domain of quality, measures should reflect those child health measures that

will be endorsed for use in Medicaid and CHIP through the new CHIPRA legislation, both in 2011 and 2013.

g) Assure newborns are linked to immunization registries, public health screening programs, and other interventions to ensure early detection and public health tracking.

Again, we applaud the direction of your initiative, and seek through these recommendations to assure this effort fully assures that children and families will benefit from this approach along with the rest of the American people.

With best regards,

Charles Homer MD, CEO
National Initiative for Children's Healthcare
Quality

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