ANI Selected Opportunities for Engagement
August 2012

Requests for Comment/Information

- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is seeking comment on ways to improve quality measurement through health IT.   AHRQ has issued a Request for Information (RFI), "Request for Information on Quality Measurement Enabled by Health IT."   The RFI is available at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-20/html/2012-17530.htm. Comments due August 20, 2012 (an extension is anticipated).

- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is seeking comments to help it determine whether and how patients' work-related information should be captured in electronic health records. NIOSH specifically asks providers to comment on whether and how they asked about or used patients' work-related information--such as when they ask patients about their work, where in the EHR they would put the information, if the EHR system maintains a history of the information, who collects the information, and how the information affects care provided. It also asks EHR vendors to comment, asking such questions as whether their products include fields for such inquiries, and how they would support this information.   Comments are due to CDC by August 27, 2012.

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released a proposed rule that most medical devices distributed in the United States carry a unique device identifier, or UDI. The FDA is also creating a database that will include a standard set of basic identifying elements for each UDI, and will make most of it available to the public so that users of a medical device can easily look up information about the device. Responses are due November 7, 2012. For more information about the proposed rule see: http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/UniqueDeviceIdentification/default.htm

Reports Released

- The Future of Privacy Forum (FPF) and the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT) released a publication titled "**Best Practices for Mobile Application Developers**". FPF also released a guide to best practices for app developers. Earlier this year, the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's Office of the Chief Privacy Officer, working with the Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights, launched a Privacy & Security Mobile Device project. See: http://www.futureofprivacy.org/wp-content/uploads/Best-Practices-for-Mobile-App-Developers_Final.pdf

- A **National eHealth Strategy Toolkit** was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with the intention of

providing "an expert, practical guide that provides governments, their ministries and stakeholders with a solid foundation and method for the development and implementation of a national eHealth vision, action plan and monitoring framework." See: http://www.itu.int/pub/D-STR-E_HEALTH.05-2012

- **The Government Accountability Office released information about the use of electronic health records (EHR).** Medicare has been offering extra payments to urge doctors and hospitals to make the switch, and GAO said roughly 57,000 collected those payments in 2011. Medicare shelled out $2.3 billion to 761 hospitals and 56,585 healthcare professionals. See: http://www.gao.gov/assets/600/593078.pdf

- **National Institute of Standards and Technology has released "A Human Factors Guide to Enhance EHR Usability of Critical User Interactions when Supporting Pediatric Patient Care**" to address the lag of electronic health record adoption by pediatric care providers. NIST developed the guide because pediatric patients have unique characteristics that translate to higher complexity for providing care with paper-based charts and EHRs. See http://www.nist.gov/manuscript-publication-search.cfm?pub_id=911520

- According to an online **guide from the Joint Commission**, scribes should sign and date all entries that they make into an electronic health record. A physician then should validate the entry by signing and dating it, as well as adding a time stamp if applicable. For more information see: http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/jcfaqdetails.aspx?StandardsFAQChapterId=19&StandardsFAQId=426

- **A new handbook from AHRQ offers practical guidance on the implementation** of interactive preventive health records (IPHRs). Based on the lessons learned from implementation using electronic health records (EHRs) from three different vendors at 14 different practices, "An Interactive Preventive Care Record: A Handbook for Using Patient-Centered Personal Health Records to Promote Prevention" provides practical steps for health care professionals to follow when integrating IPHRs as components of EHRs. Visit www.healthit.ahrq.gov/KRIST-IPHR-Guide-0612.pdf for the handbook.

Other

- ONC and Million Hearts™ announced a new initiative, the Million Hearts™ Risk Check Challenge, to help people calculate their risk of having a heart attack or stroke and take steps to change their odds. Through this initiative, we are challenging app developers to create new tools for engaging and informing consumers that could be used in pilot cities and disseminated nationwide. http://challenge.gov/ONC/398-the-million-hearts-risk-check-challenge