



Spokane County MEDICAL SOCIETY

Orange Flag Building • 104 S. Freya St., Suite 114 • Spokane, WA 99202-4868 • (509) 325-5010 • Fax (509) 325-5409

MEDICAL INFORMATICS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2009

The SCMS Medical Informatics Committee met at 6:45 am on March 5, 2009, in the Spokane County Medical Society conference room. Those present included Jon Copeland (Acting Chair), Gordon Decker, Sam Palpant, Craig Nielsen, Bev Roberts, William Keyes and Jac Davies. George McAlister was staff.

CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11, 2008 MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes as distributed by email.

1. Introduction of New Chairman

Dr. Stefan Humphries was unable to attend, but will be present at the next meeting.

2. Health Record Bank Project Update: Jac Davies

Inland Northwest Health Services (INHS) is one of three Washington communities who have received grant funds from the Health Care Authority (HCA) for a pilot project testing the feasibility of a consumer managed online health record bank. INHS is testing Google Health as their patient-managed health information structure. The other two state pilot projects, the Community Choice Healthcare Network in Cashmere and St. Joseph Hospital Foundation and the Critical Junctures Institute in Bellingham, are using Microsoft Health Vault. Centricity data will be downloaded to a health record bank which will interface with Google Health. The unique Centricity number issued by each participating clinic will become the patient's PIN number. Participants will sign a letter of interest/release form to have their data transferred to Google Health. Information exchange is not bi-directional; requiring the patient to bring a printed copy of their records to the doctor's office. Medication and allergy data will be the initial focus of this pilot program, with enrollees limited to age 18+ to avoid the added complexities involved with adolescent patient information. Patient directives will not be included. The health record bank will collect patients' paper and electronic health records from three participating clinics, including the Rockwood Clinic, Physicians Clinic and the Heart Clinic. Unfortunately, the initial goal to enroll 5,000 patients may prove unrealistic with the new proposed launch during the week of March 16, 2009. Funding is only available through June, with the project continuing to the end of 2009. Upon completion of the pilot project, decisions will have to be made as to project viability, addition of other data types, more participating clinics, etc.

3. Recovery Act Summary: Jon Copeland

Jon Copeland summarized the impact of the Recovery Act on information technology issues. See the Veterans Administration handout titled "Recovery Act IT Benefits" for more information. Note: VistA referenced in the summary handout is the Veterans Administration's EMR.

4. Next Steps on Prior Year's discussions on EMPI and Health Data Exchange: Jon Copeland

Jon Copeland suggested that, because of the great variety of EMRs that are in use today, and with barriers to adoption (particularly for smaller practices) such as expense and training time, the committee may want to explore those products that are currently available in the marketplace that use a subscription service model. We may want to review or revisit health information exchange products such as DV Motion, [Accenx](#) or [Health Unity](#). As a standing committee of the Spokane County Medical Society, Dr. Palpant felt strongly that the Medical Informatics Committee should focus on issues and solutions that specifically benefit physicians. Dr. Palpant suggested that the committee have a future discussion on its mission, and what we as committee members should advocate to the health care community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by the individual whose name appears below:

Jon Copeland, Acting Chair