

RAPHIC

REGIONAL ALL PAYER
HEALTHCARE INFORMATION
COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting Agenda February 22, 2010, 2-3pm

Attendees:

Valerie Barton (Avalere), Dian Kahn (VT), Brooks Daverman and Jeff Ockerman (TN), James Oliver (OR), Amy Wenmoth (WV), Larry Monroe (MD), Jose Gonzalez (CO), Jeff Wilson (Milliman), Denise Love (NAHDO), Annette Gabel (Medco), Mike Boyson (CO), Patrick Miller and Jo Porter (RAPHIC), Bob Woodward (UNH), Jim Harrison (Onpoint), Lisa Tourville (Humana), Robin Gaines (California Healthcare Foundation), Deborah Sholay (Mathematica), Sarah VanDaly (Care Advantage), Jennifer Boeff (Ingenix), Craig Schneider (MHDC)

HHS Contract (National APCD CER Project) Overview from Avalere Health (Valerie Barton)

Valerie explained the impetus for the National APCD CER Project was the availability of ARRA funds to support Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER). Federal Coordinating Council released report (<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/cer/cerannualrpt.pdf>) that indicated that the development of a robust data set was imperative for CER.

The goal of the Avalere contract is to develop a strategy for data set development, including robust data architecture. Additionally, the project will engage partners and define the research questions that the database should be designed to answer, with attention to system wide implications.

Broadly, Avalere is committed to getting vast participation. Avalere intends to develop strategy for engagement in the first phase of the project. Valerie also referred to the potential second phase of the project, which would be for implementation phase. HHS folks have views on strategy but have given Avalere latitude to develop best strategy.

Two weeks ago, Avalere started interviews with users and contributors. RAPHIC members have experience in this arena. Avalere would like to learn about those experiences in order to understand the best way to structure the partnership for the most people to have access to the data, as well as the best way to finance and sustain the database. Certain issues are already identified and being considered specifically, including privacy and harmonization.

Avalere has a tight timeline, with the intention to complete the assessment work by end of April.



Q and A

What is the deliverable?

VB: A series of reports that cast a really wide net across all dimensions. The final report will be set of recommendations for the development of the database.

Are you including AHRQ?

VB: Yes, they are on the team. Avalere has spoken with Carolyn Clancy and had discussions about HCUP experience. Avalere has spent a fair bit of time with CMS also, understanding that access to Medicare data itself will be a challenge. Harmonization with Medicaid data and timeliness of data will also be an issue.

Are you including Tricare, Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB), VA?

VB: Part of this is thinking about how government communicates with itself. Thinking about all of the different data sets is part of the discipline to keep it within scope.

In terms of scope, is the project intending to develop a nationally representative sample of claims? Is that feasible? Is that one of the goals? Like 5% Medicare sample? In other words, what is the base data set? Is it the universe? Or is it a sample?

VB: Not sure what will be required for their purpose. At this point, there is no good answer.

How does that fit with the federal initiative?

The federal initiative is cognizant of the states' efforts and in line with NAHDO recommendations to continue the state APCD work and/or development. At this juncture, states should continue to develop their own APCDs – states have to meet their own information needs.

Updates from States:

VERMONT

Finished consolidation of 2007-8 data and will start 2009 consolidation soon. Utilization reports will be published this week. Expenditure reporting is coming soon. Working with Blueprint for Health – looking to put matched cohort study together.

COLORADO

Colorado is currently working through wording of legislation, incorporating feedback from state members, and looking at management structure – advisory committee versus board structure.

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OREGON

Participating in NCPDP post-adjudication workgroup harmonizing pharmacy collection calls. There is a need for additional state participation/input from states that have more APCD experience.

TENNESSEE

TN Health Information Committee is meeting again on the 25th to approve changes in emergency rules. This process includes the review and approval of procedure manual that includes the data tables. TN Attorney General is looking at whether the legislation is pre-empted by ERISA.

WEST VIRGINIA

No updates right now

MARYLAND

MD will be issuing new regulations of medical care claims to include institutional claims (including race/ethnicity) – slated for approval in March.

Updates from Data Organizations:

Medco/NCPDP

Annette reiterated James' call for more state input from states with APCD experience. Jo will call Annette to determine the best way to engage states in the NCPDP standardization call. Most of the way through the format – intend to complete in 4 to 6 weeks. Next step is to submit a request to NCPDP for May meeting or maybe August.

Updates from RAPHIC and NAHDO

- Econometrica interviews have completed – we hope to have information to share with states. Thanks to all those that offered information for this process.
- Draft of paper is being submitted to Academy Health. Audience for the paper is major stakeholders and policy makers that are on the front end of the APCD development.
- Next deliverable to Academy Health is more of a roadmap/ implementation guide, which will include the stories/shared lessons from the states.
- Issue brief to Commonwealth that reflects the conference highlights will be finalized soon.
- 2010 NAHDO conference will be in Salt Lake City, UTAH on October 13 – 14!
- RAPHIC is considering changing its name to “APCD Council”. Please provide comments and suggestions. (One comment: please do not use “National” – this is a “State” based initiative.)
- RAPHIC website facelift is coming.

Next meeting date: March 22, 2010 at 2:00