The Implementation of VistA for Meaningful Use: An Operational Approach

> By The Arizona WorldVistA Network Matthew M. King MD Medical Informatics June 18, 2009 National Library of Medicine Bethesda, MD

Course Objectives

Participants will learn how to:

Re-engineer clinical processes to efficiently use an EHR while improving patient quality Structure data for quality reporting in chronic disease and preventative care Use a rapid training and implementation cycle designed to minimize productivity loss. Do clinical template development for data capture and improved provider speed Do chronic Disease Reporting from the EHR

Course Overview:

The implementation of an EHR will be broken into: Pre-Implementation The Implementation week (Go-live) Post Implementation activities

The material will be viewed from: A quality perspective A productivity management perspective

Pre-implementation Activities-Quality Considerations

- Introduction: Why should we use an EHR?
 - Reduced Costs
 - Improved Interoperability
 - Improved Efficiency
 - Improved Patient Outcomes

EHR and Quality

- EHR is a tool; not an outcome
- Quality is a system trait
- Start with the end in mind

How to Structure Data to Improve Patient Quality

- Identify clinical and operational measures of interest.
- Identify the "chain of data" for in your organization and Health Information Technology
- Reduce your clinical measure terms into "cohort logic" and "resolution logic".
- Further define these terms with "Boolean Logic"
- Have this structured into the EHR
- Record the "Chain" including the structured EHR elements onto a spreadsheet.

Identify Clinical and Operational Measures of Interest

- Use your quality managers to identify and prioritize your clinical measures
- Use supervisors and managers to identify and prioritize your operational measures.
- Original sources for clinical measures include:
 - Uniform Data Set
 - Health Disparities Collaboratives
 - Grant Requirements
 - Pay for Performance and third party payors.

Chain of Data Example

Clinical Definition	Diabetic Flow Sheet	Health Factor and Data	Clinical Reminder (CR)	Input Template (Reminder Dialog)
The Number of Diabetics with a recorded Foot Exam in the last year	Input Template (Reminder Dialog)	N= denominator AND HF DM_FootExam	Diabetic Foot Exam	
Clinical Definition	Logical Definition	Health Factor and Data	Clinical Reminder (CR)	

End Users: What does that mean?

- Providers
- Staff (Front office, back office, medical records, referrals)
- Quality Managers
- Supervisors

End Users (continued)

- All end users need to work toward producing final product
- Example: Title nomenclature and scanned documents
- Example: Chronic Disease Templates and Clinical Reminders (LDL in last year, LDL < 100)
- Providers and Quality Managers need to give the most input.

Clinical Template Considerations

- What is a clinical template?
- What is a note title?
- Why are note title hierarchies important?
- Clinical Template Advantages—
 - Allow quick entry of predefined data
 - Allow capture of predefined data
 - Organizes the progress note
 - Well constructed templates give POC information, improve provider decision-making logic and ensure important clinical elements are addressed.
 - Allows quick entry of "Patient Objects"

Template Advantages: Quick Entry and Capture of Predefined Data:

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Templates can Provider Decision Logic

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Provider Decision Logic

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Templates: Disadvantages

Not very flexible

- Data needs to be pre-structured
- Combinations of chief complaints are a problem
- Can not "personalize" data
- Having a large number of templates is hard to master and can lead to inaccurate reporting
- Fraud exposure
- Many times slower than free texting

Practical Template Use in Primary Care

- Limit the amount of templates available
- Use for standardized forms, preventative care and chronic disease management
- Limit the use of "mandatory fields"
- Acute care templates can be structured by patient age, not symptoms
- Some aspects of the acute care template can be "personalized" for individual providers
- Provider "report cards" help encourage proper use.

Template Elements

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Template Types

- Simple
- Complex

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Simple Templates

• Use :

- Boilerplate text
- Patient data objects
- Formatting
- Template fields

Complex Templates

- Can Hide Elements for "nested logic" We call these "Dialog Templates".
- Associate with pre-made data elements to capture and store crucial information
- Satisfy Clinical Reminders (Reminder Dialogs)
- Use TIU and Health Summary Objects
- Incorporate other parts of the EHR into one workspace: Encounter data, order sets, etc

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Chronic Disease Management in an EHR– Our Experience

- Objectives: Improved efficiency by using the EHR to collect chronic disease data at point of care.
 - Use Clinical Reminders
 - Use a "Virtual Registry" through structured data
 - Produce the desired reports
 - Produce patient lists for management and outreach

Much of this workshop will focus on how to do this.

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- 🗄 Mar 18,09 PEDIATRI	Other (this	3 will not turn of	f reminder):				
✓ Templates Node=	Orders:						
v Reminders	Place order	for eye consult	to Optometry.				
E- 🕒 Due							
🚰 Diabetic Eye Exam							
📲 Diabetic Foot Exam							
ASTHMA SPECIALIS1							
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Encounter		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
NowNote	Diabetic Ey	e Exam :					
INEWINDLE	Patient ha	ad a diabetic eye	exam performed previo	usly or elsew	here.		
Cover Sheet Problems Meds							
F	lealth Factors: D	ABETIC EYE PERF	DRMED ELSEWHERE (Hi	storical)			
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FAMILY CARE CENTER _Provider one

Reminder	Needed	Done		Percent	Bench
Diabetic Eye Exam	104	87	PROVIDER ONE	83.65%	90.00%
DIABETIC HBA1C	104	87	PROVIDER ONE	83.65%	90.00%
Diabetic LDL not found	104	79	PROVIDER ONE	75.96%	<20%
Pneumovax	149	79	PROVIDER ONE	53.02%	90.00%
Diabetic Micro:Creat Ratio	104	82	PROVIDER ONE	78.85%	80.00%
TETANUS ADULT SHOT	507	299	PROVIDER ONE	58.97%	80.00%
PATIENTS	533		PROVIDER ONE		

FAMILY CARE CENTER _Provider two

Diabetic Eye Exam	175	70	PROVIDER TWO	40.00%	90.00%
DIABETIC HBA1C	175	63	PROVIDER TWO	36.00%	90.00%
Diabetic LDL not found	175	26	PROVIDER TWO	14.86%	< 20%
Pneumovax	307	180	PROVIDER TWO	58.63%	90.00%
Diabetic Micro:Creat Ratio	175	40	PROVIDER TWO	22.86%	80.00%
TETANUS ADULT SHOT	637	447	PROVIDER TWO	70.17%	80.00%

FAMILY CARE CENTER _Provider one

Using Alerts and Notifications Properly

- Alerts will "pop" up to warn the provider of a potential problem or interaction (allergy-drug, drug-drug, drug-lab monitor, high creatinine, etc)
- Notifications will appear as a "work list" for providers to accomplish. (Unsigned orders or notes, consult results, lab results, triage note, etc.)

🖉 VistA CPR5 in use by: King,Matthew M (10.3.20.232)											
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TEST,BABY '6' Nov 02,2007 (1)	KMT Pro∨ic	May 27,09 10:20 ler: KING,MATTHEW M	Primary Care Tea	am Unassigned		Pt Insur	Flag	Remote Data	0	Postin WAI	gs D
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		>> BOKHARI,SYED WHEEL CHAIR		Start: 02/22/08 22:53	Bokhari,S				active	9 Sye	
NURSING/MA ORDERS (Provide Allergy/Adverse Reaction DME	Activity	>> DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIR PROVIDER: BAUTISTA, JOSE QUANTITIY: 1 REASON / COMMENTS: TEST	PMENTS: WHE	Start: 02/22/08 23:36	Bokhari,S				active	9 Sye	
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NEW CONSULT	Nursing	>> DURA CHAIR Potential polypharmac	y - patient currently rec	eiving 10 medication)khari,S is.				active	e Sye	
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LABS SELECTED LABS SORTED		*CEFTRIAXONE INJ,SOLN 1G INJECT 1000 MG IM NOW Quantity: 1 Befills: 1	àM∕∕/IAL	Start: 05/15/09 Stop: 05/16/10	Bokhari,S				active	9 Sye	
Clinica Meds (OUT PT)		ROSIGLITAZONE TAB 2MG TAKE ONE TABLET BY MOUT Quantity: 30 Refills: 0	TH EVERY DAY		Bokhari,S				pendi	n Oth	
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🖅 VistA CPRS in use by: King,Matthew M (10.3.20.232)									
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Alerts and Notifications

- Use alerts and notifications judiciously
- Prioritize notifications intelligently
- Supervisors should be able to receive reports of outstanding notifications and days late statistics
- Allowing text entry for medications when using order checks is HIGHLY discouraged.

Other Quality Issues Preimplementation

- Staff assessment and "gap training"
- Job description and evaluation changes
- Managing patient triage and backlog during period of low provider productivity
- Patient safety procedures during the transition period and beyond
- Data entry protocols and timelines

Pre-Implementation: Productivity Considerations

- A successful EHR implementation should start with a solid foundation of quality considerations
- Then the following four areas are key:
 - Provider and Staff "buy in"
 - Effective training
 - EHR design and configuration
 - Patient data conversion from non-EHR to EHR

Idealized Productivity Loss from Implementation Activities



The Four Pillars of Success are Productivity Management Areas

- Provider and Staff Acceptance
 - Crucial to Success
 - Dependent upon a "local clinical champion"
 - J-curve effect on provider productivity

J-curve



Staff and Provider Training

- Too much or too little training can adversely affect productivity (J-curve)
- Other factors include:
 - Timing
 - Type (breakouts, group, hands on, etc)
 - Distraction (example: focus on productivity instead of technique)

EHR Configuration

- This is a very common cause of failure, nagging productivity problems, poor acceptance, etc.
- IT configuration is beyond the scope of this class
- Clinical Configuration requires local input into Clinical Reminders, Order sets, Reports, and Clinical Template and other POC help.
- This process is iterative and must be continued after the implementation process.

Data Conversion

- The data conversion from paper to electronic is the cause of the "tail" in the productivity curve.
- It can also dramatically effect cost and productivity losses elsewhere on the curve.
- Until the data is in the EHR, every patient is like a "New Patient Visit"

Data Conversion Pearls

- Scanned data in not a substitute for actual data entry. Disadvantages:
 - Cannot be retrieved in reports
 - It is hard to access
 — most providers ignore it
 - It takes up a lot of space on the servers (\$\$)
 - Often the quality also makes it difficult to read
 - It is slow to access
- Scanned data should be limited to a few progress notes, labs and reports.
- Generally, don't scan data that is going to be entered as data.

Data Conversion Pearls

- Start about 3 months before go-live
 - Earlier starts may result in "older data" and providers will need to take longer to review the charts (see below)
- Use a strict "protocol"
- Develop an 80-20 template, if possible
- Quality Management must oversee the process and there must be a quality check on the data
- Start with Chronic Disease Patients First

Data Entry Pearls

- Data over one year is usually not clinically useful
- Data that will be re-posted quarterly or more often is usually not useful
- For disease management and preventative care, it is useful to add recent historical data.
- If you are using a registry with "double entry" and want to convert to an EHR, consider early "double entry" to the EHR.

Data Entry Pearls

- Train a local team early if possible, so they can do data entry during "down times"
- Use data entry to help staff become familiar with the EHR, but this is not substitute for proper training or a proper data extraction team
- Med lists are troublesome. They are often inaccurate and illegible.
- Thin charts before starting if possible
- Stamp charts with pre and post visit data entry

Data Entry Pearls

- Pull the chart for the first visit, then retire the chart
- The provider should review the chart at the first visit and mark the paper chart for any additional data entry or scanning needed
- Medical records then does the post visit data entry and marks it complete in the computer and on the chart.

The Implementation Week

• General:

- Don't schedule "go-live" near critical holidays
- Don't allow vacations during the 4 weeks before and 4 weeks after the implementation week
- Reduce the schedule to 50% of normal
- Have a triage plan for your overflow
- Have all the IT hardware in place and tested
- Have ergonomic setups and make sure the staff is using it
- Have "petty cash" for lunches, minor computer equipment, etc.

Implementation Week

- Have plenty of on site experts: at least one person per back office team, front office help, a high level trainer, and medical records help.
- Have an IT expert on site the first 2 days
- Start on a Friday if possible
- Consider holding training session over the week end for stragglers
- QM should be assisting the Office Manager in oversight

Implementation Week

- The first morning meet for one hour, then hold 15-20 minute huddles every morning of "go-live" week
- Debrief during lunch every day of go-live
- Hybrid processes are used during the transition period. If providers are not weaned from these quickly, they will contribute to chronic poor productivity
- QM should monitor cycle times of Labs, Referrals, Med refills, etc on a daily basis

Implementation Week

- Productivity is not a concern during "go-live" week
- Teach standard methods first and "shortcuts second"
- Hold productivity incentives (we use an average of the previous 3 months)
- Production incentive freezes should have a known expiration date

Post Implementation Week Quality Considerations

- Hybrid tracking of quality through the transition period
- Supervisor training for the post implementation period
- From project management to continuous quality improvement
- Reporting quality from the EHR
- Panels, Patient teams and Provider Quality Incentives

Post Implementation Quality Considerations

- Leave an expert behind in week two
- Revisit in 6 weeks, 3 months and six months
- Quality Management needs to verify the supervisors can run the reports and understand the new workflow.
- Record Lesson Learned
- Hand out pre and post implementation surveys to staff and patients.

Post Implementation Productivity Considerations

- The expert left behind and QM examines processes for efficiencies
- Brown Bag lunches and short cut cheat sheets
- Utilize staff feedback to improve configuration and processes.
- Implement a "bug reporting process" and make sure it is responsive
- Create POC "toolkits"
- Monitor "The Tail"

Post Implementation Productivity Considerations

- A four week tail is our goal
- Make sure the EHR is accessible from home
- Bring in a "Clinical Champion" to teach efficient EHR use, including "home prep".
- Consider a "transition bonus" after baseline productivity is established
- Consider "super MAs", midlevel-physician teams, re-structured incentives (based upon quality, panel size and total team and/or site productivity).