

S&I public health reporting initiative – building the future of harmonized biosurveillance systems

Nikolay Lipskiy^{1*}, Anna Orlova² and Riki Merrick³

¹OSELS, CDC, Atlanta, GA, USA; ²PHDSC, Baltimore, MD, USA; ³APHL, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Objective

The objective of this presentation is to evaluate progress on harmonization of public health electronic data exchange through the Public Health Reporting (PH-R) Standards and Interoperability (S&I) Framework activity.

Introduction

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) initiated a broad range of national implementation activities. In order to support the critical activities of meaningful use (MU), ONC established the S&I Framework. In the beginning of 2011, the Laboratory Reporting Interface (LRI) Public Health (PH) Work Group (WG) was formed as a subworking group of the S&I Framework LRI activity. This LRI PH WG, besides providing PH required data elements to the LRI, assessed a need for documentation of the broad landscape of public health data exchange transactions. As a result, this WG recommended to participants and leadership of the ONC S&I that a new initiative, the ONC S&I PH-R activity should be established. In July 2011, a team of PH practitioners (co-authors of this presentation) started working on a charter and proposed deliverables for the group.

Methods

1. Assessment of a process toward development of interoperable PH related electronic data exchange across PH domains. 2. Assessment of priorities for the S&I PH-R initiative.

Results

Findings by ONC S&I LRI PH WG demonstrated that there are significant gaps in development of (a) functional requirements for PH-R and (b) interoperable standards-based specifications that support PH-R electronic data exchange from clinical care to

public health and within public health. In order to strengthen PH-R, the S&I PH-R activity defined the following priorities: (1) Compile the full picture of all aspects of PH reporting; (2) Review and define public health and patient safety business processes and functional requirements and develop – HIT interoperability specifications; (3) Align public health objectives in MU Stage 1 with the needs of other public health domains and programs that were not explicitly mentioned in MU Stages 1; (4) Develop a roadmap for aligning public health, patient safety and clinical objectives in MU with regards to HIT standards, development, harmonization, testing and certification; (5) Develop a roadmap for deploying standard-based certified HIT applications in PH agencies and for patient safety reporting.

Conclusions

Even though practical tasks of the S&I PH-R initiative are at the initial stage, this activity will evolve into an important national forum that embraces stakeholders critical for improvement of population health tasks including system vendors, clinical care and public health professionals. Addressing gaps in interoperability of data exchange between clinical and population care should foster progress in situational awareness, PH emergency response and quality of population care.

Keywords

Public health reporting; ONC S&I; informatics

*Nikolay Lipskiy

E-mail: dgz1@cdc.gov