Making Health Information Useful with Interoperable Exchange

According to the ONC, for the purposes of their Interoperability Roadmap, interoperability is defined as "the ability of a system to exchange electronic health information with and use electronic health information from other systems without special effort on the part of the user".[1] This means that health care providers, in various settings of care, should be able to send, receive, find and use electronic health information in a manner that is appropriate, secure, timely and reliable to support the health and wellness of their patients.

Exchanging health data with consistent language, content structure, and in a secure manner is critical to interoperability. Being able to then deliver this data in a manner that is meaningful and actionable to the recipient is the paramount outcome of health information exchange. Altarum is a respected leader and innovator in the delivery of interoperable health data solutions.

Altarum can help you achieve quality, standard, useful data with our interoperability tools and technical assistance. We understand the complexities of incorporating patient information from multiple sources while providing the tools and functionality to conduct data analysis and critical decision-making at the population level. Altarum is a respected leader and innovator in the delivery of interoperable health data exchange and useful health information resources. Our Staff are experts in health information integration and interoperability, developing implementation guides, interfaces and data quality validation tools for EHR and health system connectivity.

MI HEALTH LINK
Linking Medicare and Medicaid for you

MIHealthLINK – 18,250 patient physical and behavioral care summaries exchanged and counting! To support coordination of care for dual eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, Altarum facilitates secure and interoperable data exchange between physical and behavioral health plans in the State of Michigan. For the MI Health LINK program we developed a standardized specification, leveraging the HL7 Clinical Document Architecture (C-CDA) implementation guide, for the exchange of care plans and behavioral health risk assessments. We developed testing and validation tools to check the conformance of the C-CDA care plan conformance and a C-CDA rendering style sheet to enable care coordinators to view the C-CDA in a human readable format. We currently support 11 Health Plans, averaging 300+ health summaries exchanged between health plans each week. As part of our work to provide support resources, we are now developing enhancements to the specification to expand the care plan to include goals and interventions for personal and social care services.

Correctional Care – Improving care coordination for vulnerable children and young adults in the corrections system of Washtenaw County. Altarum is enabling more timely and electronic exchange of both external and internal behavioral and physical health information between Washtenaw County Jail, Washtenaw County Children's Services (WCCS), and Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH). We are working to improve workflows, connect information from multiple electronic health record (EHR) systems, and introduce Health Information Exchange (HIE) software to improve the health outcomes of these vulnerable children and young adults.

MCSP MICHIGAN CANCER SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM   **MBDR** MICHIGAN BIRTH DEFECTS REGISTRY

Cancer-Birth Defects – Increasing the timeliness and completeness of the clinical information needed for surveillance and research. Our work with the Michigan Birth Defects and Cancer Surveillance registries supports the CMS EHR Incentive Program and improves data sharing between clinical setting and public health surveillance systems. We prepare and provide the interoperable exchange of data between the Michigan Cancer and Birth Defects registries, so that this data may be shared with internal and external partners. By facilitating electronic flow of cancer and birth defect case information to public health systems, we are helping the State of Michigan realize valuable and actionable health information exchange.

MDHHS VALIDATOR

MDHHS Validator – Enabling EHR vendors, health care providers, and laboratories to test message conformance (structure and content) to implementation guides for HL7 messages and C-CDAs using cutting edge logic. Altarum developed the truly innovative Validator tool that ensures the accuracy and quality of health information prior to exchange. The Validator tool is a self-serve online tool with the functionality to upload HL7 messages and C-CDAs, automating conformance checking and producing user friendly reports identifying errors and issues with the messages and C-CDAs. This has significantly mitigated the flow of inaccurate data into Michigan's public health systems, making the information reliable, useful, and actionable.

[1] Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) Connecting Health and Care for the Nation, a Shared Nationwide Roadmap Final, Version 1; Derived from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) definition of interoperability.

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