NESCSO
New England States Consortium Systems Organization

"Improving Results Through Collaboration"

The Journey Towards Meaningful Use

How far have we gotten?

Nancy Peterson, Deputy Director
March 10, 2011

Agenda

This session will provide an update on:

- The Office of the National Coordinator's (ONC) activities related to the various funding streams

- New England RECs and Beacon Update

- Electronic Health Record (EHR) adoption and Provider Incentive Payments related to the adoption of (EHRs)

- New England collaborative activities related to HITECH, Health Information Technology (HIT) and Health Information Exchange (HIE)

- Challenges as we move towards meaningful use (MU)

- Role of the information professional to meet the challenges (discussion)

ARRA /HITECH Act

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)signed into law 2/17/09
- Two sections (known as HITECH) codifies the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), creates standards and provides incentives for providers to use HIT
  - Substantial investment to modernize our healthcare IT infrastructure
  - $25 billion earmarked for provider incentives for adoption implementation and use of EHRs *in a _meaningful_ way*
- Adopting EHRs to support improvement of quality

So Where Are We Now?

- ONC has funded various programs related to achieving MU including:

  - **Cooperative Agreements** with the States to develop HIT programs and build capacity for exchanging HIT across states (all of the NE states have a cooperative agreement)

  - **Regional Extensions Centers (RECs)**
    - Provide training and support services to assist doctors and other providers in adopting EHRs
    - Offer information and guidance to help with EHR implementation
      - eHealth Connecticut
      - Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative-(serving MA and NH)
      - HealthInfoNet (ME)
      - Rhode Island Quality Institute
      - Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL)

So Where Are We Now?

- ONC has funded various programs related to achieving MU *continued…*

  - **Beacon Programs**

    - Funding to 17 selected communities throughout the United States that have already made inroads to develop secure, private, and accurate systems of EHR adoption and HIE

    - Focus on specific and measurable improvement goals in the three vital areas for health systems improvement: quality, cost-efficiency, and population health, to demonstrate the ability of health IT to transform local health care systems

      - Bangor Beacon Community (helping to expand the # providers using the exchange (HIN) in Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems

      - RI Beacon Community, Providence RI

So Where Are We Now?

- HHS has issued "Meaningful Use" Final Rule (7/13/10)
  - Final Rule creates "Core Objectives and Measures as well as "Menu" Objectives and Measures
    - Core measures reflect the key elements of promoting electronic health information exchange (recording and exchanging such elements as patient demographics, prescription data, medication allergy lists, current and active diagnoses)
    - Menu measures may be chosen by those providers who participate
      - Select from a "menu" of measures that align with organizations' priorities

Meaningful Use: Why It Matters

- Standard that doctors and hospitals must achieve to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments;

- Links HIT and HIE to healthcare delivery system improvements;

- Organizing principle for the work of ONC, the HIT Policy Committee, and the HIT Standards Committee;

- Driving state-level e-health programs; and

- Dominant force for EHR vendors as they upgrade their products.*

*Ray Campbell, Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Data Consortium

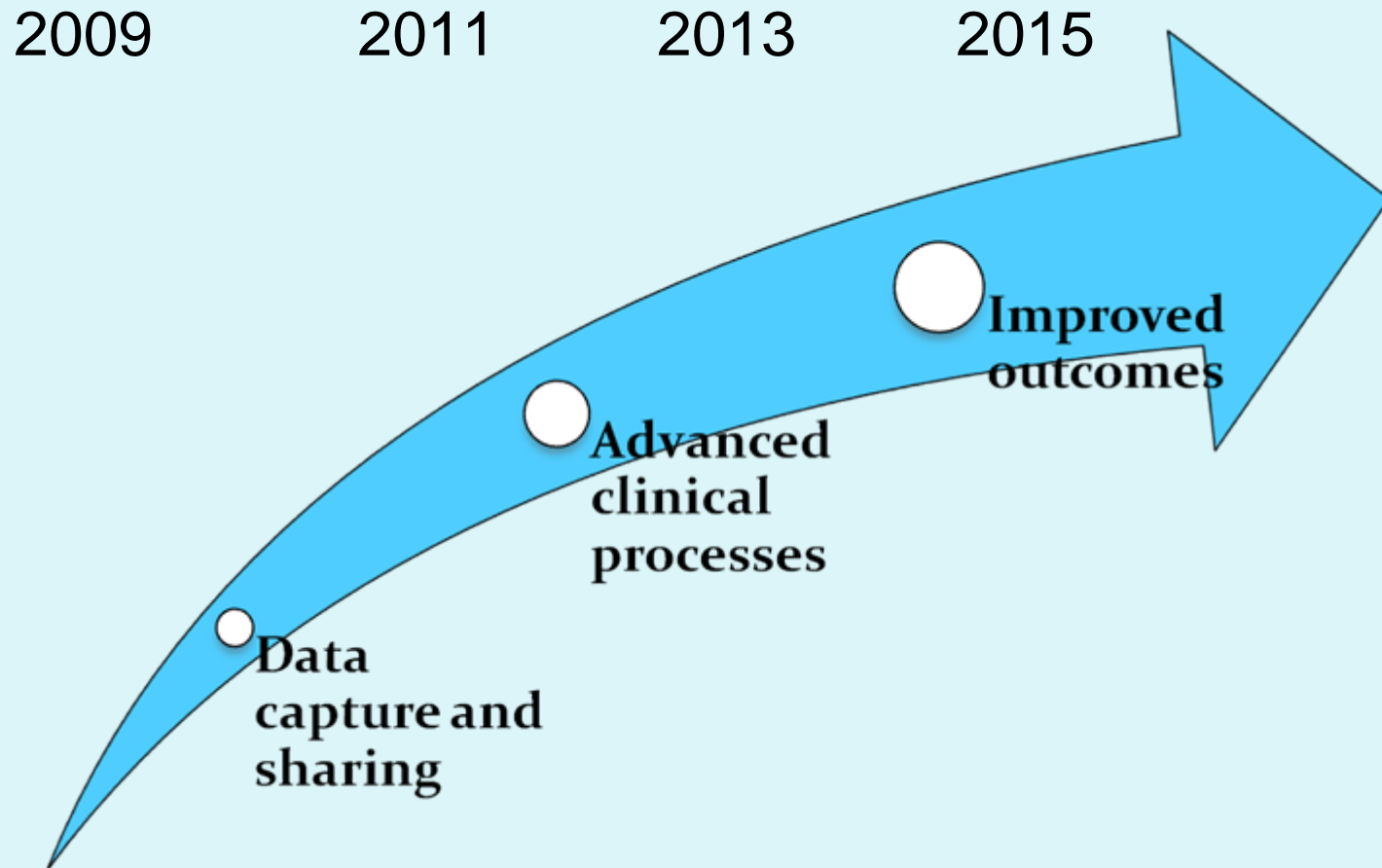# The Three Components of Meaningful Use

Meaningful Use

EHR Certification Criteria

HIT Standards

*Ray Campbell, Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Data Consortium

The Meaningful Use Escalator

2009   2011   2013   2015

Improved outcomes

Advanced clinical processes

Data capture and sharing

What is NESCSO Doing?

- Established a multistate (New England and NY) Workgroup which meets monthly (webinar or in person) to discuss various aspects of HIT/HIE

- Performed a survey of the region to identify synergies in states' planning and hardware and software procurement needs

- Developed a relationship with the Southeast Regional Collaboration on HIT-HIE (SERCH) Workgroup to share information across our memberships
  - Potential to share our survey and develop a longitudinal database of the results

- Working with NE states to create a learning collaborative to share information with MA as they prepare their Health Insurance Exchange for Health Care Reform in 2014 (Early Innovator Cooperative Agreement awarded 2/16 : ~ $36M over 2 years-NESCSO is the lead on the interstate work of this agreement

Challenges Ahead

- 34,000 physicians have signed up for the incentive programs
  - Is the pace on target?
- Barriers for physicians
  - $
  - Time and Workflow
  - EHR Products
- Perception
  - Recent Stanford study citing no measurable benefit from having an EHR
  - Study refuted on March 8 by *Health Affairs:*
    - The Benefits Of Health Information Technology: A Review Of The Recent Literature Shows Predominantly Positive Results. Melinda Beeuwkes Buntin, Matthew F. Burke, Michael C. Hoaglin, and David Blumenthal . Health Affairs 30(3): 464-471

Late Breaking News…

- David Blumenthal, Director of ONC will be stepping down (a replacement has not been named)

- ONC has asked for comments for Stage 2 MU

  - Industry feels the infrastructure is not there to support Stage 2 Objective

  - Some practices are not yet collecting the information needed

  - Proposed timelines are just too aggressive

- Recent studies on the value of EHRs

Role of the Information Professional as We Move Towards MU

"*Here is a microcosm of robust innovation in a market created by the new federal program.*" *David Blumenthal, March 8, 2011*

Resources

- NESCSO (www.nescso.org)
- Office of the National Coordinator (http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt)
- National Association of State Health Policy (NASHP) (www.nashp.org)
- Massachusetts eHealth Institute (http://www.maehi.org/)
- HealthInfoNet (http://www.hinfonet.org/)
- Rhode Island Quality Institute (http://www.riqi.org/matriarch/default.asp)
- eHealth Connecticut (http://www.ehealthconnecticut.org/)
- Health IT Buzz (http://healthit.hhs.gov/blog/onc/)

Contact Information…

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