eHI’s Parallel Pathways:
How Purchasers and Payers can Help Communities Get Connected

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Key Findings

• Value of HIT accrues to all stakeholders, but not proportionally to the cost of investment
• Emerging health information exchange initiatives, networks and organizations should be leveraged to facilitate effective and efficient information sharing
• Incentive amounts offered should be meaningful
• Policies related to information sharing and interoperability should be built into expectations
Key Findings

• Benefits of Community Collaboration
  – Providing leverage to achieve widespread participation,
  – Achieving critical mass for incentives to be meaningful
  – Reducing the potential for “free rider” effects,
  – Reducing the burden created by physician practices participating in multiple reporting initiatives, and
  – Significantly reducing the per participant cost of both transmitting and receiving common data elements for various healthcare needs
Agreed-Upon Principles for Financing and Incentives

• Any financing or incentive program should:
  – Result in improvements in quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness in healthcare.
  – Focus on applications and systems that are standards-based to enable interoperability and connectivity.
  – Address not only the implementation and usage of HIT applications but also the transmission of data to support information needs at the point of care.
  – Allow for internal quality improvement and external performance reporting as mutually agreed upon by all stakeholders.
Agreed-Upon Principles for Financing and Incentives

• Any incentive program focused on quality should also include some direct or indirect incentive for the health information technology (HIT) infrastructure required to support improvements in quality.

• Financing and incentive programs should seek to align both costs and benefits related to HIT and health information exchange.
Parallel Pathways: All Roads Lead to Improved Quality and Value

- Aligning Incentives with
  - Quality capabilities
  - Physician HIT capabilities
  - Health information exchange capabilities
Value for Patients

• The true promise of coordinated care along the entire care continuum, and improved relationships with all care givers

• The ability to better manage their personal health information and records
Value for Clinicians

- Doing well while doing good
- Gaining a deep understanding of their individual, group and practice’s performance in delivering quality care to patients
- Initiating and tracking QI programs
- Better management and coordination of their patients’ care
Value for Purchasers and Payers

• Real-time, relevant, fair, and equitable information on the quality of services delivered by all clinicians

• Ability to better engage employees and their family members in managing their care
Phased Approach Ensures Success

Phase 1
- Quality self-assessment
- HIT implementation
- Chart data reporting

Phase 2
- Use of HIT
- e-reporting of outcomes
- QI initiatives

Phase 3
- Continued QI
- Full e-reporting of outcomes

Time

Incentives

Reporting of Outcomes
Useful Links

• eHI’s Parallel Pathways:
  - http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/assets/documents/ParallelPathway5-25-052PM.doc

• Bridges To Excellence: