Impact of Emerging HIT Data Standards on HIPAA Implementation

The Health Information Technology Summit Washington DC 23 October 2003

Wes Rishel VP & Research Area Director Gartner Healthcare

Gartner











"Human-Decision" vs. "Computer-Decision" Variants	
Human-Decision Variant	Computer-Decision Variant
 Matches the most prevalent workflow: a person reviewing the information to make a decision 	 Permits computer-assisted adjudication or autoadjudication
	 Includes specifications for breaking data down into
 "Low-impact" on health plans (easy to display using common 	computer-accessible elements
tools)	 Includes LOINC codes to identify the questions
 "Low-impact" on providers (supports low-cost document preparation and "fax-like" use of existing paper or document images) 	 Includes answer codes suitable to the question
	 Processable in "Human-Decision" mode by health plans that have not adopted a computer-decision

approach.

Can be applied selectively, one attachment at a time.

Gartner

Gartner





Provider Readiness Impacts Predicted Acceptance

Highest IT Ability:

 Next-generation patient accounting, integrated with next-generation computer-based patient record
 Structured clinical data available on-line and tightly integrated with revenue cycle

Intermediate:

 Some medical record data on-line, often in image format, much data only in chart
 separate but competent patient accounting

Better practices

.

- clinical data only in chart
 modern billing system with integrated HIPAA EDI
- Too many practices
- clinical data only in chart
- billing system integrated with clearinghouse through print images or using DDE billing

Gartner

Proposed Approach Captures the Least Common Denominator

- Providers
 - All levels can produce the human decision variant with small investments in technology (e.g., purchase of \$60 scanner and Internet access or extensions to the billing system)

Health Plans

- More willing to invest because more providers can use it
 Reduced investment for minimal compliance
- Gain Immediate Benefits... Health Plans Providers Benefits - Benefits predictable content allows anticipatory transmission of information; reduced payment delays due to requests reduced PPP reduced rework fewer pended claims for documentation requests ROI available by saving people, paper, and postage - HIPAA Compliance Costs reduced denials and rework for failure to provide additional documentation limit early implementation costs to basic Qs and As · less early use of LOINC codes potential for faster payment initial investment more justified Maximum opportunity for by higher provider participation immediate participation Gartner

2

...But Don't Sell Out the Future

Providers

Health plan incentives for structured data provides financial benefit for acquiring a computer-based patient record
Timing for conversion is a business decision rather than an enforced decision

Health Plans

- atth Plans After the basic ROI is obtained, advance to the use of structured data without another regulatory cycle Selectively approach the use of structured data as business opportunities arise, rather than being forced to by a regulation

Gartner