

## **Changes to the Plan and Master Schedule to Accelerate Connecticut's HITE-CT HIE Capabilities to Support of Meaningful Use Requirement**

Connecticut is committed to make the necessary changes to the Master Schedule and take actions aligned with the enhanced schedule to ensure the capabilities of the HITE-CT to support the first phase of Meaningful Use as detailed in ONC-HIE-PIN-001. The most significant revisions to the Connecticut's HITE Strategic and Operational Plan (the Plan) and Master Schedule focus on ensuring the organizational and technical capabilities of HITE-CT to support qualifying eligible providers to demonstrate Meaningful Use of their HIT in order to qualify for CMS incentive payments during 2011 through – 2014. The following provides an overview of the changes necessary in response to ONC's comments and recommendations.

### **Gaps in Current Plan**

The approach in the Plan presented in September showed that HITE-CT HIE would have no infrastructure operational until early 2012. Prior to the implementation of the statewide HIE infrastructure, those providers with a certified EHR system will be able to implement e-prescribing through Surescripts. Surescripts report that 100% of CT pharmacies are able to fill e-prescriptions for all but controlled substance prescriptions.

It was proposed that Connecticut providers with a certified EHR system would be able to connect directly to certain laboratories that offer the electronic delivery of structured lab results using HL7 Messaging without the HIE infrastructure. The plan had HITE-CT set up a support capability to pro-actively help (in conjunction with the REC) eligible providers locate and use the services available elsewhere directly until the Statewide HIE is operational. However a gap existed in that very few providers will have any way of electronically sharing patient care summaries with unaffiliated organizations.

### **Revisions to the State's HIE Plan and Master Schedule**

Key revisions that are being finalized to the Plan and Master Schedule will directly address the identified gaps through the following actions.

- The enhancement of the procurement process to focus on vendor competency for the long term, establishing vendor requirements and capabilities to expeditiously respond to the critical short term needs to provide services for HIE customers in 2011.
- A new service, called "Interclinician Direct Messaging," will be scoped and specified in the Plan and Master Schedule to develop the capabilities essential to share patient care summaries electronically and directly with identified providers in other healthcare organizations regardless of affiliation. This is a feature where a provider will be able to create an output report from their EHR and, using the State's HIE Portal, direct that report to another HIE-subscribing provider. These messages will be securely transmitted by the HIE, fit within specific standard formats and be tracked with providers and patients identification available for audit. This service will include the development and implementation of a Master Provider Index component of the Connecticut HIE to enable individual providers to be securely connected for sharing of messages.

- The "Initial HIE Stand-up" section of the Master Schedule will be split into two steps:
  1. Create a limited infrastructure within 30 days of contract award to support Interclinician Direct Messaging; and
  2. Create the entire infrastructure required for the gradual roll-out of the complete set of HIE capabilities and services.
- Procurement strategy and requirements will focus on a vendor selection process that will evaluate potential vendors' proven capabilities to deploy the Interclinician Direct Messaging aligned with HITE-CT's timeline.
- The State is developing a new release phase entitled "Connecticut HIE Release 1 – Continuity of Care Document (CCD) and Public Health Reporting." The new phase will be named "Connecticut HIE Release 1 – Interclinician Direct Messaging" and the release phases will be updated in the Plan. This new phase will implement the Interclinician Direct Messaging service statewide to any and all Connecticut providers who have identified a need for the service, have implemented the minimum required IT capabilities, and are prepared to sign up for and comply with HITE-CT usage agreements.