Certification Workgroup

Focus:

The Certification Workgroup was comprised of CMS personnel, contractors and stakeholders who develop and/or use certification criteria, standards and tools to certify the use of electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) in certified health information technology. The Workgroup was established to improve the quality, alignment and timing of standards as well as their implementation guides and constraints for stakeholders such as standards development organizations, health IT vendors, measure developers, eligible professionals, and eligible hospitals.

History and Background:

The Certification Workgroup came out of the December 8-12, 2014 eCQM Kaizen Event. The discussion at this meeting led to identification of challenges, aha moments, and the desired future state. A summary of the Kaizen Event is provided at this link https://ecqi.healthit.gov/file/12536 on the eCQI Resource Center.

Goals and Objectives:

Challenges/Aha's:

- Don't get schematron files on time
- Contract scope and cost
- Lack of adequate test records for health IT vendors

Desired Future State:
- Goal: Align Workflows for QRDA Implementation Guides (IG) (base and supplemental) so all template constraints can be identified and included in a single HL7 QRDA IG prior to December 1, 2015.

Workgroup Metrics:

1) Measure Engine code discordance cypress and CMS test deck
2) Cypress includes key features as prioritized
3) Number of downloads in self-testing suite
4) Cypress released 2 months after annual update

Results – December 2014 – September 2015:

The Cypress team received important feedback from stakeholders regarding how it can help health IT vendors successfully prepare for certification and submit to CMS. Cypress added several features to assist health IT vendors doing pre-certification testing including the ability to use a stable test deck, a testing API, and arbitrary QRDA document testing. In order to assist health IT vendors in achieving successful submission to CMS, Cypress added more robust test cases which test more measure logic. CMS IG rules as informational warnings were also added to the certification tool. Lastly, the Cypress team deployed a separate tool specifically focused on assisting health IT vendors to prepare for submission called the Cypress Validation Utility.

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For more information on the Certification Workgroup, contact Dr. Julia Skapik, ONC Medical Officer, julia.skapik@hhs.gov.

For information on current opportunities to engage with the eCQI Community visit the eCQI Resource Center at https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqi/engage-ecqi.