Dear Dr. Leavitt:

At our August 14, 2007 EHRVA all-member meeting, we reviewed an inpatient/outpatient use-case that EHRVA members believe improves interoperability in typical point-to-point information exchange scenarios that occur between inpatient and ambulatory EHR systems. This use case is also scaleable to the interoperability specifications for connection to the Nationwide Health Information Network. It reflects the reality that certified EHR systems are more likely to connect to other ambulatory or inpatient systems in the near-term, before there are opportunities to connect to a health information exchange. The need for this type of interoperability solution is further heightened by the interoperability requirements set forth in the recent Stark Safe Harbor for EHR donation. This use-case is also consistent with our July 20, 2007 letter to Dr. Robert Kolodner (see attached), National Coordinator for HIT.

The attached inpatient/outpatient use-case was supported unanimously by our membership, and we are forwarding it to CCHIT for review as part of its 2008 interoperability requirements environmental scan process. Please forward to the Interoperability Expert Panel Ambulatory EHR Workgroup, Inpatient EHR Workgroup, Network Foundation Workgroup and other teams as appropriate.

We look forward to working with HITSP and CCHIT in creating interoperability solutions that solve today’s interoperability challenges using the harmonized interoperability specifications recognized by the Secretary - as well as positioning us to respond effectively and efficiently to interoperability opportunities as standards efforts and technology evolve.

Sincerely,

Charles Parisot
GE Healthcare
Chair, EHRVA Standards & Interoperability Work Group
EHR Vendors Association Executive Board

Allscripts Healthcare Solutions
Dan Michelson
CPSI
Rick W. Reeves

digiChart
Michael McCoy, MD
Epic Systems Corporation
Peter DeVault

GE Healthcare Integrated IT Solutions
Hugh Zettel
Greenway Medical Technologies
Justin T. Barnes

Vice Chair, EHRVA

Healthcare Management Systems, Inc.
Steven Starkey
MediNotes Corporation
Donald Schoen
Chair, EHRVA

cc: EHRVA Executive Committee
EHRVA members on CCHIT Interoperability Expert Panel
- Robert Barker, NextGen
- Barry Blumenfeld, MD, GE Healthcare
- George Cole, Allscripts
- David Tao, MD, Siemens Medical Solutions
EHRVA members on CCHIT Network Work Group
- Mike Kappel, McKesson
EHRVA members on CCHIT Ambulatory EHR Work Group
- Sarah Corley, MD, CMO, NextGen Healthcare Systems, Inc
- Keltie Jamieson, CLINICARE Corporation/Chartcare Inc.
- James O’Connor, MD, Sage Software
- Eric Rose, MD, McKesson Provider Technologies
- Susan Thomas, MD, GE Healthcare
EHRVA members on CCHIT Inpatient EHR Work Group
- Emily Barey, RN, Epic Systems Corporation
- Robert Elson, MD, MS, Chief Medical Officer, Eclipsys Corp
- John Foy, MD, PhD, Product Strategy, GE Healthcare IT
- Sharon Hines, RN, Healthcare Management Systems, Inc.
- Gail Latimer RN, VP, CNO, Siemens Medical Solutions
- Rick Reeves, CPSI
John Halamka, MD
John Loonsk, MD

Attachments:
Inpatient/Outpatient Use-case
AHIC Letter - July 20, 2007

About HIMSS EHRVA
HIMSS EHRVA is a trade association of Electronic Health Record (EHR) vendors that join together to lead the HIT industry in the accelerated adoption of electronic health records in hospital and ambulatory care settings in the US. Representing an estimated 90% of the installed EHR systems in the US, the association provides a forum for the vendor community to speak with a unified voice relative to standards development, the EHR certification process, interoperability, performance and quality measures, and other EHR issues as they become subject to increasing government, insurance and provider driven initiatives and requests. Membership is open to HIMSS corporate members with legally formed companies designing, developing and marketing their own commercially available EHRs with installations in the USA. The association, comprised of approximately 40 member companies, is a partner of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and operates as an organizational unit within HIMSS. For more information, visit http://www.himssehrva.org.