

## SISU interoperability efforts

John Lillie, interface supervisor

## SISU

- Consortium of 16 hospitals
- Mostly rural
- Based out of Duluth
- Shared data center/resources
- Mission
  - To provide cost effective information technology to provider based healthcare organizations.
- Vision
  - We are the experts bringing valuable information technology solutions to healthcare providers.

## 2015 Interoperable EHR State Mandate

- All hospitals and health care providers must have in place an interoperable electronic health records (EHR) system within their hospital system or clinical practice setting by 2015
- What does interoperable mean?

## State of Minnesota's definition of interoperability

- Interoperability of Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems in Minnesota means the ability of two or more EHR systems or components of EHR systems to exchange information electronically, securely, accurately and verifiably, when and where needed. It is comprised of "technical," "semantic" and "process" interoperability, and the information exchanged includes transactions and standards as defined by the Minnesota Commissioner of Health.

## Technical, Semantic, Process Interoperability

- Technical – transmitting of data accurately and securely from one point to another. It is the “infrastructure” of the process.
- Semantic – defines the way the actual data is sent and received. LOINC and SNOMED codes are examples of this.
- Process – is creating “best practices” between the sender and receiver so that processes for gathering data can be aligned.

## Why interoperability?

- The goal is to facilitate access to and retrieval of health data in order to improve health care quality, increase patient safety, reduce health care costs and improve public health.

## SISU Interoperability projects

- Lab
  - Hospital EHR sending results to clinic EHR
  - Hospital EHR receiving clinic EHR orders and sending results back
  - Hospital EHR sending orders to and receiving results from outside reference lab
  - Hospital EHR sending results to pharmacy application which alerts pharmacist of possible intervention opportunities
  - Hospital EHR sending pathology orders to and receiving results from an outside pathology service

## SISU Interoperability projects

- Radiology
  - Interfaced hospital EHR to hospital PACS solution
    - Implemented at 9 sites, with two different PACS solutions
  - Hospital EHR sending orders to and receiving reports from an outside radiology service
  - Hospital EHR receiving reports from outside radiology service

## SISU Interoperability projects

- Reports
  - Hospital EHR sending reports to clinic EHR
- Clinical summary report (conceptual)
  - Hospital EHR sending admission to clinic EHR, which in turn compiles summary report which is returned to hospital EHR

## So, what next??

## Education

- Educate yourself
  - Read and understand the **Standards Recommended to Achieve Interoperability in Minnesota** guide
  - The MDH web site has lots of good information for both state and federal initiatives  
<http://health.state.mn.us/e-health/index.html>

## Planning and Beyond

- Planning
  - Most important step
  - Set your priority transactions for data exchange based on:
    - What improves care
    - What would qualify for financial incentives under "meaningful use" as part of federal stimulus legislation
    - What will provide the greatest operational improvement in your practice
  - Define current workflow related to manual data exchange
  - Identify what is needed to migrate to electronic data exchange
    - Understand vendor timelines and limitations
  - Identify costs associated to implement and maintain electronic data exchange (both sides)
    - Interface cost
    - Resource (staff) costs associated to interface planning, design, implementation and maintenance
  - Budget for costs
- Implementation
  - Directly affected by how well you plan.

## Thank You

### Questions

John Lillie  
SISU Medical Systems

[jlillie@sisunet.org](mailto:jlillie@sisunet.org)

218-529-7937

[www.sisunet.org](http://www.sisunet.org)