

Telemedicine Task Force Technology Solutions and Standards Advisory Group

March 14, 2014 Meeting Summary

Key discussion items:

- The Technology Solutions and Standards Advisory Group (TSS advisory group) explored the development of a telehealth provider directory that could be made available through the State-designated health information exchange (HIE), the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP)
 - CRISP provided an overview of their current provider directory, which is available through the Maryland Health Connection website (see the provider directory [here](#))
 - The existing provider directory includes information about health care providers, including name, specialty, supported carriers and plans, address, and phone number
 - Health insurance companies participating with the Maryland Health Connection currently collect the information from providers and submit to CRISP for inclusion in the provider directory; health insurance companies could potentially request that providers indicate whether or not they are engaged in telehealth services
 - Additional information — such as telehealth technologies being used, clinical services provided, and availability for scheduling — may need to be collected through an alternate means
 - CRISP could add an annotation section in a provider profile that could potentially append the additional telehealth information
 - The provider directory is currently searchable, and telehealth could potentially be added to the search function; the ability to search by physician group may also be a possibility
 - The value of a central provider directory was discussed to enable providers and consumers to access provider information in one location
 - Exposing the telehealth provider directory through existing resources, such as CRISP and the Maryland Health Connection, could help in streamlining access to provider information
 - The possibility of linking the telehealth provider directory to other resources, such as the Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC), was also raised; MATRC has a telehealth directory which includes telehealth providers who may be located in Pennsylvania; Delaware; Maryland; Washington, DC; Virginia; West Virginia; North Carolina; and Kentucky (see MATRIC telehealth provider directory [here](#))
 - The importance of focusing on the State level and driving traffic to the CRISP HIE was emphasized as a consideration in developing the telehealth provider directory
 - Additional policy considerations that will need to be addressed include authentication and credentialing processes, as well as maintenance to ensure the information in the telehealth provider directory is up-to-date
 - The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) will revise the telehealth provider directory wireframes to be aligned with the current CRISP provider directory; the revised wireframes will be shared at the next meeting of the TSS advisory group

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- TSS advisory group members reviewed the definition of telemedicine to more broadly encompass telehealth services, health care professionals, and evolving technologies
 - Telemedicine is currently defined in law as: *the use of interactive audio, video, or other telecommunications or electronic technology by a physician in the practice of medicine outside the physical presence of the patient*¹
 - TSS advisory group members developed the following working definition for telehealth: *telehealth is the delivery of health-related services and education using telecommunications and related technologies under the oversight of health care professionals*
 - TSS advisory group members discussed a number of considerations in the development of the proposed working definition:
 - Ensuring oversight of health care professionals in the provision of telehealth services
 - Acknowledging that delivery of telehealth services may not always improve health status and may be used for maintenance or end of life care
 - Ensuring the definition is broad enough to include remote monitoring and mhealth applications
 - The proposed working definition for telehealth will be shared with the Clinical Advisory Group and the Finance and Business Model Advisory Group at their upcoming meetings to gather their input; the working definition will be revised based on their feedback
- *The MHCC will hold workgroup conference calls in between in-person meetings. The first TSS workgroup conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2014 (10:00am - 11:00am; call-in information forthcoming)*
- *The next in-person meeting of the TSS advisory group is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2014 (2:00pm – 4:00pm at MHCC)*

¹ Md. Code Ann., Health - General § 19-319.