Specification Validation and Approval Form*

*This worksheet was adapted from a 2011 book published by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) entitled "Improving Outcomes with Clinical Decision Support: An Implementer's Guide, Second Edition."

This form documents your discussions with various stakeholders about the completed intervention specification forms. If you have a relatively small number of objectives and interventions you are validating, you can put them all on one form; otherwise it might be better to have a separate form for each objective or even each intervention.

You can use this form to document all your validation discussions with the many different stakeholders to help keep track of the various comments, or use it only to document final sign-off by the approvers. Similarly, you can record discussions and comments from individuals, committees or both.

Clinical objective	Intervention name	Reviewer (role)	Date presented	Comments	Date Approved
Improve post-op heparin prophylaxis	Heparin post-op order set	Jim J. (Chief resident [graduate medical trainee] in surgery)	3 Jan 2012	Need to make text clear that neurosurgical patients should not receive this therapy	5 Jan 2012
Improve PTT monitoring in heparin patients	PTT Alert	Mary K. (Nurse manager, PCAU)	3 Jan 2012	Need to educate nurses on the prophylaxis policy so that they will comply with the alert; approval withheld pending training plan	
	PTT Order Set	Jim L. (Surgery)	3 Jan 2012	None	5 Jan 2012

Clinical objective	Intervention name	Reviewer (role)	Date presented	Comments	Date Approved
Improve compliance with care guideline for heparin and low molecular weight heparin	Heparin guideline reference link	George D. (Division chief of cardiology)	3 Jan 2012	Need to clarify that link will fire for both inpatient and outpatient locations	5 Jan 2012

Step 3: Develop the planned CDS interventions. Build in technological and people-based mechanisms for gathering and processing feedback from intervention recipients.

Careful attention to specifying and validating the CDS intervention plan should pay off when it comes time to create the CDS interventions. For example, developers should benefit from the clear and detailed direction on exactly what is to be built and what objectives the product is expected to achieve. Similarly, the investment in cataloging the available CIS infrastructure and selecting and designing interventions with those capabilities in mind should help minimize any surprises for developers.

The oversight group will help resolve inevitable issues that arise during development, ensuring that the intentions and objectives previously defined for the CDS intervention are factored into the compromises and modifications that creep in. When this happens, the specifications should be updated so that they continue to accurately reflect the intervention details.

Building the feedback channels may include a combination of work on the intervention itself (e.g., adding "contact us" information or buttons on display screens) and on organizational processes (e.g., ensuring that a knowledgeable person can be easily reached in a timely manner by users to address concerns about the intervention).. If any changes to the feedback plan or channels arise in the course of development, make sure these are taken into consideration.