

Interoperability Plan for Virginia Women's Center (VWC)

Vision of required interoperability with VWC:

An interoperable VWC health IT should make the ability of communication and share meaningful and useful medical data across EHR software, imaging system, large & small practices, practice management, hospital EHR, LAB information system, pharmacy, home patient, patients and other providers. This functionality refers the ability of exchange data with safely access relevant, up-to-date data from other providers.

Key interoperability requirements:

Protect privacy and security in all aspects of interoperability. It is essential to maintain public trust that health information is safe and secure. Build upon the existing VWC health IT infrastructure is crucial key interoperability requirements. Also consider the current environment and support multiple levels of advancement is other significant assume. Simplify is really important aspect. Where possible, simpler solutions should be implemented first, with allowance for more complex methods in the future.

Major critical success factor to achieve interoperability of EHRs, is standardization for ensuring successful, reliable, and secure documents and data exchange between different systems or applications in VWC organization and related parties. And all parties should adopt to create business agreement for implementing standards to exchange health information. To achieve this goal, we need to resolve some issues like inconsistent use of medical terminology, communication between EHRs and PHRs and making harmonize several systems of healthcare exchange. Also we need to achieving agreement on standards and certification process and it is critical to create a master patient index and national patient identifier system.

We define interoperability in three levels inclusive: Information, Technical and Business

Information interoperability: This is the main part of Interoperability which refers to ability exchanging medical data and information across different systems and software applications of VWC environment.

Technical interoperability: Refers to IT infrastructure that means the ability of associated with hardware/software components, systems and platforms that enable machine-to-machine communication to take place.

Business Interoperability: This term describes to collaboration partners how they can interact by non-medical data with EHRs in VWC. For example financial data related to patients must be able transferred between different parties of VWC organization and financial office.

Health information exchange

Health information exchange is a vital part of EHRs in VWC and it is a prerequisite for interoperability. HIE is a necessary but not sufficient by itself to achieve health information interoperability. There is great potential value in HIE such as mistakes are avoided, care is more effective, and lives are saved. HIEs have generally become more financially stable. HIEs will increasingly have to offer more advanced services to VWC moving away from fee-for-service care delivery. But in the other hand, there are a wide range of issues about HIEs from policy and organizational perspective inclusive: data use limitations, data ownership, governance, liability, anti-trust and roles & responsibilities. Other concern about HIEs is privacy and security. HIE must be completed in a way that protects patient privacy and improves health care safety and quality.

Benefits

Successful deploying of EHRs in VWC has potential benefits which are extensive: Save time, Reduce errors, Improve outcomes, Facilitate patient engagement and population health initiatives, Lower costs and Enable truly coordinated care. We will strive to make sure our interoperability efforts yield the greatest value to individuals and care providers, improved health, and health care. Other benefits of system interoperability for VWC can be mentioned, increasing patient safety and security, along increasing employee productivity. The main factor that allowed VWC to enjoy EHR success was a culture of commitment and engagement of the entire practice at all levels.

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