



On January 21, 2014, ONC and Audacious Inquiry (Ai) hosted a meeting for the popHealth stakeholder community. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the strategy for transitioning popHealth to the stakeholder community, and the governance options for the community. The following is a summary of the stakeholder meeting.

Introduction

- popHealth is an open source software tool that automates the reporting and visualization of Meaningful Use clinical quality measures (CQMs).
- When created in 2009, popHealth was originally envisioned as an off-the-shelf-type tool that could be downloaded and used by non-technical providers for CQM reporting and visualization.
- Audacious Inquiry has been contracted by ONC to assist with transitioning popHealth from an ONC run tool to the open source community.
- ONC's goal is to transition popHealth tool to open-source community in the "best manner possible," and to facilitate the transition to a sustainable tool that supports viable use cases in an open and inclusive way.
- ONC owns the IP and trademark for popHealth. ONC will continue to develop the Cyprus quality measure engine (which is significant part of popHealth) as it is used for certification; however, ONC has no budget for maintaining popHealth.
- ONC via Ai will work with the community to develop governance and technical plans that will facilitate the transition of popHealth to the open source community.
- The VHA is working with Mitre to develop 9 eligible provider (EP) CQMs in popHealth.

Environmental Scan

- The community is predominantly using popHealth v2.1, though some are still using v1.4. Northwestern is in the process of certifying v2.1 for 2014.
- Northwestern is utilizing popHealth for Meaningful Use. Wyoming is using popHealth to accept CQMs from providers for their patient centered medical home (PCMH) program and for Medicaid Meaningful Use requirements. Finally, eHealth Connecticut is using popHealth to support FQHC's reporting of CQMs.
- CMS is working with a number of states to define how 90/10 funding can be used to allow state Medicaid departments to collect CQM data via popHealth.
- Future use cases as described by the community include role-based access to popHealth, setting up popHealth as a web service, creating presentation layers, and build your own measure functionality.
- A free Measure Authoring Tool has been developed that can build quality measures in HQMF format (which can then be used by popHealth), but requires a high level of quality measure knowledge to use.



Governance Options

- Governance options ranging from closed to open were presented, and governance workgroups and the resources that need to be address by the organization were also presented.
- There is some consensus within the community that the governance model needs to be inclusive, but at the same time needs to have a managed governance structure by a small group.
- Stakeholders discussed identifying a way to give membership/voting rights to the members based on tangible/measurable contributions, and the contributions may not necessarily be based on code contributions but could include financial, in-kind services, bug fixes, CQM calculation knowledge, etc.
- There was a discussion on whether there should be a budget developed for popHealth or if the community should decide on use cases first and then determine the budget that will be needed.
- There is some concern about workgroups planning features because there's a tradeoff. If there's a community that chooses the features and puts resources towards duplicate work is minimized; however, someone then owns the feature, and if they lose funding or it's hard to build, than work can be stalled, creating inertia that's hard to overcome.
- There are multiple stakeholders who have interests in overlapping use cases, the community expressed concern on how each stakeholder would fund the use cases relevant to them.
- There is disagreement over the need for the community to have a formalized roadmap.
- Because popHealth is in the end an open source tool, there has to be a substantial engagement from the developers and the success of the community will depend on the code commits.
- The community expressed a desire for some engagement from ONC on an ongoing basis to keep the work on track with federal priorities and changes.
- The community expressed a need to develop a mechanism to engage a larger developer community.
 - There was a discussion about relying on developers to produce code and let the product evolve organically. But this product is slightly different from normal open source projects, where the developers are the users. PopHealth has a distinct user and developer community which may overlap but also leaves a user group that may not have the necessary development capabilities.
- The community also discussed a few different ways to engage other stakeholders who may be users or just benefactors of the popHealth tool.

Technical Development Plans

- The community discussed the need to identify a mechanism to manage the branches of code and the method the community would use to decide what code changes would be merged into the master code branch.



- The community discussed additional use cases that might be relevant to the group, as well as other tools that might be complementary to the popHealth tool. The roadmaps of those tools might impact the development timelines of popHealth and will need to be coordinated.
- The community agreed that it would be valuable to have an up-to-date list on the website of the current use cases and which group(s) are working on each.

Next steps

- ONC will create blog post about popHealth for the Buzz blog.
- Ai and ONC will continue one on one discussions to gain additional feedback.
- Ai and ONC will host at least 2 more stakeholder calls to ascertain the community's thoughts on governance. The next call will be scheduled for February, the week before HIMSS.

DRAFT