**CIS Discussion-13**

A.

The plan mainly consists of four goals according to The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (2021). The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (2021) states that these strategies centrally focus to the individual’s access and availability of their health data. The agenda highlights the federal government’s goal of increasing the access to the electronic health information with improved utility and facilitating further exchange according to The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (2021). The first goal in accordance with The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (2021) is to promote health and wellness. According to Esmaeilzadeh & Sambasivan (2016) the health information exchange (HIE) plays an important role in improving the patient care coordination and health outcomes thus promoting health. According to The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (2021) the second goal focuses on enhancing the delivery and experience of the care provided. Esmaeilzadeh & Sambasivan (2016) remarks that employing HIE within the organization result in improved workflows which in turn can increase the quality-of-care delivery. Availability of information at a single point of source can result in improved diagnosis and aid the physicians with better treatment protocols. eHealth policies have enabled delivery of health services to the unprivileged and underserved population with the aid of HIE (Dixon & Rahurkar, 2018). According to The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (2021) the third goal is to build an ecosystem which serves as data warehouse and is secured to promote research. The clinical data repositories play a significant role in research as they serve as growing pools of reusable clinical data (Wade, 2014). The final goal is to integrate the healthcare sector with the health data according to The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (2021). This union is significant as the availability of health data digitally facilitates transfer of information across the connected systems. Reusability of such data can improve the prognosis of a disease and result in better health outcomes.

B.

For any plan or goal to put into action, a defines set of agreed policies and standard protocols must be ensured for fruitful implementation. For example, policies like HITECH Act and Affordable Care Act have created incentives to lay foundations for health information infrastructure (Dixon & Rahurkar, 2018). Before framing the policies, one should always consider the methods, evidence and standards used to determine the policy (Richardson et al., 2017). Primarily the policies play a key role in promoting the safety of the health records (Rudin et al., 2021, p. 979). Improper planning in terms of design, quality assurance, inadequate testing and poor deployment of health IT can result in its hampered usability (Rudin et al., 2021, p. 979). Policy makers must ensure that the safety measures of health IT are addressed while formulating the policies. The policies which outline the safety and privacy of the health information must be given paramount value (Rudin et al., 2021, p. 980). As this information contains the most sensitive data pertaining to patients, policies developed must be in accordance with the HIPPA guidelines. These policies hold importance because all the clinical data made available to the physicians or hospitals must be protected to prevent data misuse, data breaches and subject to malware. These days, there is growing importance to public policy in informatics which encapsulates everything from funding of research projects to the entitlement of physicians accessing the electronic medical records of patients (Rudin et al., 2021, p. 981). Apart from policies, ensuring proper standardization of the clinical data for better interpretation and exchange is paramount. To facilitate this extent, Health Level 7 (HL7) is being adopted widely across multiple organizations. But there are numerous terminologies like ICD-10, SNOMED-CT, LOINC and many more to achieve standardization of clinical data. With emerging advances in health care, there is always a scope for the development of new policies and standards to support the health IT.

C.

The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) is responsible for providing recommendations on the policies, standards, and implementation specifications of the health information technology according to The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (2022). Here are the most recent activities of HITAC in the year 2022.

* In the meeting held on September 14th, 2022, HITAC approved the recommendations developed by the Adopted Standards Task Force. This states to maintain or opt out the current standards and implementation guidelines (The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, 2022).
* On June 16th, 2022, the HITAC approved the recommendations developed by the Interoperability Standards Group (The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, 2022).
* Prior to the above mentioned, the recommendations on the US Core Data for Interoperability Draft developed by Interoperability Standards Workgroup were approved by HITAC on April 13th, 2022. (The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, 2022).
* The recommendations developed by e-Prior Authorization for Information Task Force 2022 were approved by HITAC in the meeting held on March 10th, 2022. (The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, 2022).
* The HITAC approved the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021 to be submitted to the National coordinator on February 17th, 2022. (The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, 2022).

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