

The Meaningful-use Matrix

By Thomas G. Morrison, co-founder, NaviNet



Through 2010, expect to see government healthcare committees and healthcare IT (HIT) vendors come together to encourage and support adoption of HIT in provider settings across the continuum of care by aligning stimulus payments with quality-care improvements. The goals of the government and the legislation will only be achieved, however, if health industry stakeholders can immediately start to pull costs from the healthcare system.

In order to improve healthcare quality and reduce costs, there are four requirements that need to be supported by the national HIT infrastructure: clinical data acquisition to support cost and quality-effectiveness comparisons; automated support for better-coordinated care and implementation of clinical best practices; process automation to support incentives, payment reform, reporting and liability management; and leveraging the trusted relationship between providers and patients to improve patient compliance with best practices in wellness and chronic-disease management.

Driving the adoption of certified, high-quality EMR capabilities is important for the industry; making clinical data widely available will help reduce medical errors. Less attention is being paid to supporting the behavior and business-process changes that will be necessary to drive cost reductions and quality improvements. Without a broadly accepted consensus, EMR systems will be unable to support the range of innovative new approaches that will be experimented with in coming years. Technology solutions that facilitate business-process innovation in behavioral change for patients and providers are needed to enable cost reduction.

The implementation of new Web-based technologies can help drive the behavior changes needed to accomplish the nation's wellness and prevention goals. The use of Web-based solutions can facilitate many of the quality metrics and corresponding outcomes-based payments.

For more information on

NaviNet solutions:

www.rsleads.com/001ht-203