

Minutes from National iMedConsent™ VANTS Call

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Ray Frazier, National Center for Ethics in Health Care

1. Upcoming Release

In the next release, the witness name will be added to the progress note generated when the consent form is saved to VistA. In addition, the document server has been modified to resubmit failed jobs once before the failure notification email is sent.

2. eHealth University (VEHU) 2007

The provider-level classes offered at this year's VeHU went very well. Many thanks to Paul and folks at Dialog Medical for their help in preparing and delivering the hands-on classes, and thanks to Char Feldman and Dr. Aggarwal at Fargo for delivering an excellent lecture! It was great to meet many POCs in person. For next year, we'll lobby again to see if we can offer administrative user classes as we did in past years.

3. Performance Monitors

The group briefly discussed the expected iMedConsent performance monitor for FY 2008. We will discuss it again in greater detail once the monitors are formalized and released by the DUSHOM.

4. Centralization/Regionalization of VistA Imaging Servers

In VISN 20, the centralization effort has seemed to result in an increase in server down-time. Paul in Seattle asked whether there will be an effort to have the iMed server and VistA server "talk to each other" to indicate whether or not the image handoff took place successfully. Bill Taylor responded that this is something that Dialog Medical has been discussing this issue and he expects that over the next 6 months, we're going to see a greater degree of redundancy built-in to the program.

We are still unsure about how exactly the regionalization will affect iMedConsent functionality. There have been some impacts on iMedConsent that coincide with the server migration, but Dialog Medical is still unsure about whether/how the migration is resulting in these effects.

5. ROI in iMed

We still do not have an estimated time of delivery for the ROI to be reintroduced back onto the iMedConsent program. I will let the group know when I hear any news from the Privacy Office.

6. Policy Update

I don't really have anything new to offer as far as an estimated release date for the revised informed consent policy. It is still working its way through the review

process.

7. CCOW User Context Sharing

This enhancement, which will eliminate the need to sign-in to iMed after signing in to CPRS, is expected to be funded, developed, and released in FY 2008.

8. Documentation of Refusal

Informed consent documents are not designed to document refusal of a recommended treatment/procedure. The group had an interesting discussion about how best to document a patient's refusal and whether the patient's signature on a form should be required. At the present time, this is not addressed in the informed consent policy.

The group also raised the issue that it seems redundant and potentially problematic that there is a "blood products" section in the consent for transfusion. I will look into this with Dialog Medical.

9. National Ethics Teleconference

We had a fun ethics conversation regarding the informed consent topic above, and I want to encourage those of you who are interested to check out the monthly National Ethics Teleconferences (NET) delivered by the Ethics Center. "These calls provide education and offer an opportunity for practitioners and others throughout VHA to discuss an important health care ethics issue." (More info available at: <http://vaww.ethics.va.gov/activities/net.asp>.) If you want to get on the NET mailing list to get reminders and announcements, send an email requesting to be added to the NET mail group to vhaethics@va.gov.