

Q&A Follow-Up for A National Web Conference on the Use of Health IT to Reduce Medication Errors and Improve Patient Safety

Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2014

Starting time: 12:00 PM

1. Have there been any considerations using an electronic medication dispenser to help patients to be more compliant with proper medication dosing?

Answer: Our study only addressed medication orders and linking them to future lab tests. Our study did not specifically focus on medication compliance per se.

2. Did the electronic medical records medication reconciliation interface have usability issues and how is human user interface being implemented in the development of the workflow?

Answer: An application or module for medication reconciliation is ideally integrated tightly with an electronic health record (EHR) system, such that it is also connected to, or part of, the process for electronic prescribing. Due to major software development of our own EHR system, this was not possible in our study, so our approach required users to work with a separate application that retrieved medication information from the EHR system. We had a few issues with the amount of time required to run and use the application. Technology for electronic reconciliation and prescribing of medications should pay special attention to time requirements so as to avoid overburdening the users.

3. How is adherence captured in an electronic medical record (EMR)—that is, adherence of taking med in the past and estimate adherence of the med prescribed during a medical encounter?

Answer: In our redesigned prototype, we formulated a plan to estimate adherence based on the proportion of days covered. This computed measure uses electronic information about pharmacy dispensing to compare days covered to elapsed time. Details and references can be found in our article as cited below.

Cadwallader J, Spry K, Morea J, Russ AL, Duke J, Weiner M. Design of a medication reconciliation application – facilitating clinician-focused decision making with data from multiple sources. *Appl Clin Inf* 2013 (March); 4:110–125. Available at <<http://dx.doi.org/10.4338/ACI-2012-12-RA-0057>>.