

VHIE Claims Subcommittee Agenda and Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee Name: VHIE Claims Pilot Subcommittee	Committee Chair: N/A	
[Health Information Exchange (HIE) Steering Committee]		
Meeting Agenda: 1. Review New Use Cases: Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) 2. Next Steps	Mtg. Facilitator: Emily Richards Mtg. Recorder: Mahesh ThopaSridharan Where: Virtual Meeting	
	Conference Room: none	
	Date: May 28, 2021 Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm	
☐ May contain Confidential/Exempt information	Teams Meeting Information: +1 802-552-8456,504634126#	

Attendees (Present Bold)			
Name, Organization	Role	Name	Role
Lisa Schilling, DVHA, AHS	Medicaid Claims and Payer Operations SME	Tim Tremblay, Health Care Reform, AHS	Blueprint for Health SME
Ena Backus, Health Care Reform, AHS	Health Care Reform SME	Katie Muir, OneCare Vermont	ACO SME
Sarah Lindberg, Green Mountain Care Board	Claims Management/All- Payer Claims Database SME; Data Governance SME	Carolyn Stone, VITL	VHIE Technical Operations & Design SME
Mary Kate Mohlman, Health Care Reform, AHS	Health Data Research & Analytics SME; Data Governance SME	Beth Anderson, VITL	VHIE Policy and Governance SME
Erin Flynn, DVHA, AHS	Medicaid Payment Reform SME	Emily Richards, Health Care Reform, AHS	Subcommittee Operational Support

Non-Subcommittee Members (Present Bold)			
Name, Organization	Role	Name	Role
Mahesh ThopaSridharan, Health Care Reform, AHS	Subcommittee Operational Support	Dan Chavez Health Tech Solutions	HIE Steering Committee Consultant
Varun Manohar ADS	Subcommittee Operational Support		

#	Agenda Topic	Topic Facilitator	NOTES (notes are provided in italics and blue)	Action Items
1.	Meeting Introduction	Emily Richards	 Introduction from Emily R. [Slide#2 - Agenda] Today we are going to review the use cases developed by Sarah Lindberg & Lindsay Kill from the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB). [Slide#3 - Role of Subcommittee Members Re: Use Cases] As a reminder - the subcommittee is tasked with assessing the VHIE Claims Use Cases, identifying areas of priority and areas of overlap. [Slide#4 - Use Case Categories Definition] This is just a reminder of the taxonomy that we are using, our categorization of the use cases that Mary Kate put together. We are thinking about them in four categories.	
2.	Review New Use Cases: Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB)	Sarah Lindberg	 Over to Sarah Lindberg to explain the use cases - [Slide#5] [Slide#6 - Use Case 1: Defining more precise scope of a Health Care Organization (e.g. Provider landscape) GMCB has five board members appointed by the Governor and they have several duties. Their roles include regulating hospital budgets each year hospitals come to find how much their net patient revenue can grow overall and then how much their charges on the commercial charges can grow each year. They also approve certificates of need for hospital development projects. They also regulate health insurance premiums for certain populations - they approve actual amounts of the premium of the qualified health plans offered through the Affordable Care Act reforms. They also approve the manual rates used for fully insured health insurance groups. And they are signatory on the All-Payer Model - they support implementation, reporting and oversight of the ACO. One of our priorities is better understanding provider data. One of the ways that comes up for a lot is that if you think about a way like at a system as a way of system of healthcare providers, it's a much different way when you put them together when you are looking at it from a fiscal regulatory lens for a hospital budget than it might be, when you are trying to look at it from the care delivery system implemented by the ACO. Understanding provider data and how data systems interrelate is a bedrock that we know has a lot of opportunity for improvement. One the major goals for the State that the GMCB want to support is learning to reimburse based on value instead of what services are provided, and I know we have talked about this at other times, but I think its little bit of extrapolated exercise when you are talking about the value that the hospital provides and so the traditional equation for value is Quality divided by Cost. Quality is one of those areas where Clinical Data would really help us out to think through new payment mechanisms. To do that we ne	

- corrective surgery whereas in a clinical kind of longitudinal record, that might be clearer.
- There is the the All-Payer Claims Database, VHCURES and hospital discharge data set from VUHDDS. We have a lot of financial information related to the regulated entities. We also have the certificate of needs.
- Certain patients have poor quality. That is a lot of work envisioned in terms of health disparities. We are trying to get better information in our records to support that kind of measurement.
- We have strong suspicion that some those attributes might make more sense in the Clinical record than in a Claims database. More resources have been devoted to learning about the HL7 attributes associated with things like Language.
- The interesting thing about the Claims is that if you wanted to what kind of Care the Physician is providing and if you look at Claims you will be highly misled. What happens in the Clinic and what gets billed for, are very different things. Trying to figure of more robust fair version of actually what happening the Clinical sampling would be definitely helpful.
- Wellness child screening that will often show up in a chart review, but that is not actually billed a lot of the times. That is something that providers could get paid for, but you know people are not actually billing for it. If you look at Claims, you will greatly undercount the well child screening that are happening in the State. This use case is foundational that was little bit hard to talk about in terms of specific use its kind of tool or a way to improve data through the State and I think of it as the other MPI, but the Provider Index is one of things that there is a lot of opportunity, challenges across the System and one of them. The more we work together, the better it will be.
- [Slide#7 Use Case 1: Defining more precise scope of a Health Care Organization (e.g. Provider landscape]
- We are working on improving how we are able to provide data. Right now there are few different ways – there are public facing reports, summary briefs – they are public facing, and then otherwise we have request access to the Claims Data and that is a very pretty intensive process. Basically the Board makes sure that people have the capability to make sure its safe and secure, not identifying individuals. It is a huge database and we are trying to build more friendly analytical data set.
- Our data requests are generally distributed to highly technical users so
 they really know what they need. For example, researchers looking at a
 study published about tapering of Opioids. Right now VCHIP and other
 folks at the UVM are working on linking death certificate information to
 assess end-of-life care. ICU Care. Linking data is major area that the way
 the world is going at the Board are hoping to centralize that path.
- We already have approved linkages for Blueprint for Health, who has been doing that for a long time. There is some information on the Birth certificate, and I do not even know that if it is in the Clinical record set. Things like birth weight. But people would really want is the Parents. It is hard to figure out who the parents are if we just look at Claims - being able to build those families from Claims will be a boon for maternal health researchers.
- The Legislators will be more interested in the expenditures. There has been some interest in the past in Equity in reimbursements. If a hospital and independent provider are providing the same service, they do not necessarily get paid the same amount, so there has been some interest in figuring out that discrepancy. A price variation dashboard is coming out early next year and we are validating the information in VHCURES which is an administration dump of data and there is nobody who sign's off on that data. Both Payers and providers say this is what we have of

- the whole population, but on average when we are measuring the signal of your reimbursement and how well it matches with what Payers see and how well it matches with what Providers see in the revenue book.
- Regarding the provider data, there are two major identifiers used:. (1)
 National Provider Index (NPI) that is required for people who want to
 get paid by Medicaid or Medicaid. What is good about is that its very
 well populated for that population but it is not necessarily that kept up
 to date. The rule is that if it does not involve in you getting paid, do not
 trust it very much. If you are trying to figure what practice someone is
 at, NPI may not be place where you would go to.
- And (2) PECOSI, where I see lot of Provider Indexing conversations going. But we will still always have some gaps as Dentist's might need not required to be registered in the Database. The other thing where we may help VITL is that we get the claims wherever the person gets the Care whether it could Florida or anywhere else as long as the Patient have a Vermont Mailing Address. The first of the month the Social Security Administration (SSA) will get those claims for those people and help kind of round about the Provider information, if its not available in the clearing home or wherever else the national level kind of data is stored.
- When a Case is being investigated what I am told is that we should see encounter payments in MMIS, but I am not able to check that and for Medicare its still the preferred service equivalency. We are not missing anything there. But we do know that a major opportunity is kind of looking non-Claims based spending and figuring out how to standardize it in any meaningful way and that is the major national level issue that APCD's are tracking.
- The APCD data is deidentified data. We do get clear text from Medicare where the vendor does the hashing. For commercial payers and Medicaid submission its hashed prior to we are receiving the data.
- There was agreement that a conversation around immunization data and how it can be used is needed.
- There was also agreement that more discussion is needed on provider identification tools. The uses of these tools (e.g., identifying EMS or personal care attendants in a state of emergency) and the funding for these tools (CMS) are now clearer.
- Do you have an estimate of what % of Claims you get and do not get?
 The APCD has about 80% of Vermont population.
- In the APCD, we have anyone who have access to exemptions. We have state employees, we have the teachers, we have UVM, the school, and then we have people who are voluntarily choosing to submit their claims. Thanks to partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield, we know that of those people who would not have to submit the Claims in their self-funded books. The big piece missing is the Cigna's self-funded books. We think there is about half of the self-funded market represented. We were in the middle of the outreach to get the some of those back in before the pandemic hit we are trying to get the effort restarted. According to our research it turns out that the self-funded groups are more likely to submit data in deidentified format.
- More and more groups are pursuing self-funding health insurance options. We are missing more and more over time. At a federal level they have created a work group that is going to help advise Dept. of Labor on this topic. Best guess is that they will say that if they choose this common data layout that was developed that the self-funded groups will have to use that. That was the argument that it was who should own it for different states and such different formats. They might also tap into the whole format that is being used through FHIR for the

- interoperability rule, which we are also tracking because that would be a great thing. We could also leverage our interest such as Premium.
- Most submissions to the APCD are monthly, but smaller ones might submit quarterly or annually. You have to submit for fully insured business if you have more than 200 are more of Vermont lives. There is member identifier that you can use to track somebody over time. Its only as good as your hashing will allow. So we use some of the other probabilistic matching, but it certainly could improve.

[Slide#9 - Use Case 2: Evaluation of Provider Quality]

- Sarah L: Most of value-based efforts are in the All-Payer model, looking at from ACO level and trying to measure value at that level. Our goal is to assess the quality of the system/provider.
- In the APCD there is hospital financial information, going back to the 1980's. That is about how for the hospital discharge data set goes back to, so that one I do not know how exactly it associates to ADT but then it is a discharge-based record, and it is for the whole facility-based clientele for the hospital and the hospital is the one that submits it. We have different contracts to collect that information through NSO. We will soon be adding Green Mountain Care surgery and Eye center and also hope to add the Psychiatry hospital soon to that data set. But it only has the charge information, so overtime charge is less and less meaningful from the fiscal standpoint than the actual amount that is reimbursed. There is not just Claims and invoice, it has reimbursement amount and breaks out what insurers paid Vs what the patient responsibility was per deductible, copay, and coinsurance.
- We now have more information from the ACO. We have information on their network and the organization's financial information. There is still information missing claims is a big one, some patient demographics, some clinical information that we are pretty in the dark about. Anything that does not go through the Claims is not known to us at this point. And so much of what hospitals do is broader than what is in the Claims. But we are doing our best to round out the financial picture.
- When it comes to population, we are right now using a lot of survey data, Behavioral Risk Factor Survey is big one for us. Those are great for what they are, but you know sometimes its hard to detect the change on the survey especially when we have form numbers like in Vermont. More robust clinical data could help us potentially. I have heard that some types of information are actually good to look at the Clinical record than in Claims and it depends on the nature of the Care. Sometimes pharmacy is the best way to detect something is going on.
- We also set targets for the ACO. We say this is what you are supposed
 to achieve on a per person per year for your attributed population. Right
 now that is very close to Claims. Going forward we want to decouple
 that from Claims and actually have a target that is truly value based.
 That would be specifically to start with our Medicaid population. We are
 also trying to explore expanding the capitation of Medicare and
 reconcile for fee for service equivalency.
- Regarding APM measures, Erin noted that the perspective would shift if more data were to be available to measures that we tie into Payments.
- Sarah L: A lot of the measures are selected because they are least burdensome to measure through Claims. It will be a long time before you get rid of the claims as Providers will still have to do the claims as people come in from all over the place and to treat them. Even if Vermont is 100% value based, we still are going to have some broader issues. There is a lot to be determined
- Carolyn S: I think there is a lot of opportunity listening to Sarah about data quality challenges that you have, and the data quality challenges

that we have. There may be ways in the future to work together. If we have Claims data, then it will be a little bit easier. But one of the big things we are missing is like knowing what we do not have. You guys have the claims to say something happened, but we do not have the information about the person, and we have that information. Even in small use cases, we may look to pilot some of those to see if data like race, ethnicity, or some of the other additions like who is part of the family and that type of stuff. We have that, and we have the ability to get that. I know from my seat with the Claims data, we are blind to whether we are getting the clinical data that we should be from the organizations, and we are always looking for painless ways to identify for an on behalf of the hospitals what they are missing.

- Sarah L: There may be other things that may be less risky to look at in more timely fashion. We want at least three months of run out for things to get paid in our world. That is really about the money than the event. There might different workflows for the use cases here and that is a good way to tackle some of these. The more we can minimize those charts that people have to review, that is a huge boon to everybody.
- Carolyn S: Absolutely, like our own hospital discharges even if they are
 providing data to you that we already have, then we may just add an
 additional report to you guys and then they do not have to do it. We
 should off course check the quality of data that is going each way. I do
 think that there are lots of opportunities here.
- Beth A: How much do you let people when they get your data sets? You give them a dataset when there is request, right? Sarah L: Yes, for the claims data, you need to have DUA in place. For State of Vermont employees, we offer access secure analytic conclave hosted on Amazon webservices. It is a redshift database, so its highly performant and lets people right there SQL in there. We also now have some extrapolated tables that is produced by the Vendor that you can also access through Tableau dashboards in that environment. But otherwise they just get a raw flat file. Vudge has kind of public use files, you just have to email us, and the Dept. of Health will send the public use file which is HIPAA complaint. But if people need other elements, then a research file has to be derived for them. We have some interactive reports some released on our website where you can download the information about what is behind it, if you interested in looking at yourself. We are trying to build more public use files that people can go look at and more readily access.
- Katie Muir: It is exactly what I have been thinking. I could tell you what I
 will be able to do with clinical data or those kinds of pieces when we
 have it. But until we have it, it is really hard to say what we can
 accomplish and how fast, but definitely a lot to be hopeful for.
- Beth A: We think about linking the datasets if we were to match clinical
 and claims sets assuming we had both deidentified data sets to do from,
 that makes it easier. But then linking the actual encounters to the
 clinical, I think we do some of that now, that an interesting place for us
 all to talk about. Having detailed knowledge of the dataset will help.
- Katie Muir: We have some identified Claims, and we have Clinical. Maybe we are some of the closest to doing some of this. We have Claims but we cannot find anything in the Clinical record, and clinical values where we can not find any Claims. It definitely works both ways. There is not a lot of understanding of where the gaps are OR why Or what is going on there, so there is lot to be done as we continue to work. Our Claims is identified, but much less complete. There are lot of different variables there. We are starting down that path and baby steps right now. Its hypertension, diabetes work that we are doing.

			 Sarah L: Pulling that episode on the Claims side can be lot harder than you might think. We just think about a surgery, but there might be an independent provider that sent a separate bill. Sarah L: For the APCD, there is not patient consent, that is why the data is deidentified/hashed. 	
3.	Next Steps	Emily Richards	 [Slide#14 - Next Steps] We have two more groups to go, 'Point of Care' and the 'Medicaid Operations' group. Complete the remaining (two) use case gathering sessions in June. We would like to come back together to figure out the taxonomy or matrix for prioritizing Use Cases. Carolyn and Beth discussed about their ideas for Use Case prioritization, test a particular Use Case, need for considering legal agreements and consents. 	