Clinical Informatics at Partners HealthCare

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Seminar on the Business of Healthcare Informatics
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Informatics @ PHS

- Multiple groups and teams involved with Informatics
  - Becoming very popular, particularly among clinicians

- Enterprise team dedicated to EHR activities
  - Operational focus with strong emphasis on decision support, knowledge management, data management, and interoperability
  - Multiple problems require more formal scientific approach, with experimentation and evaluation

- Also involved with research and innovation
  - Senior informaticians typically have academic appointments and are encouraged to teach and publish
Team Overview

• “Home” for clinical informatics operations related to Partners eCare (Epic implementation)

• Apply informatics expertise to help define, plan, and carry out a variety of PeC activities and projects
  – Identify synergy with ongoing activities within PeC and with Epic

• Leverage core competencies of the informaticians
  – Providing training and consulting to PeC teams

• Collaborate with other PHS informatics groups, including site-based groups

• Continue to explore research and innovation-oriented opportunities, including academic and industry collaborations
Informatics Expertise

- **Knowledge Management & CDS**
  - Knowledge Engineering
  - Metadata Management
  - Collaborative knowledge vetting (asynchronous)
  - Knowledge modeling
  - Governance

- **Terminology Management**
  - Standard terminologies
  - Data modeling
  - Terminology mapping

- **Interoperability Standards**
  - HL7 versions 2.x and 3.0
  - Meaningful Use standards

- **Information retrieval**
  - Infobuttons (context-specific)

- **Nursing Informatics**
  - Clinical collaboration and coordination
  - Inter-professional communication and decision-making

- **Informatics “research”**
  - Alert Fatigue
  - Evaluation Studies
  - Natural Language Processing
  - Personalized CDS
  - Advanced reasoning methods
  - Continuous CDS protocols
Informaticians

• Specific job family outlines informatician roles and career progression levels
  – Distinction between clinical and technical informaticians

• Recruiting emphasizes training, experience, alignment with areas of focus
  – Skills to manipulate and analyze data are highly desirable

• Career progression emphasizes knowledge, innovation, autonomy, teamwork, and process-orientation
Informatics activities (1/2)

• Senior Informaticians meeting – weekly
• Recurring meetings – e.g. CDS, knowledge modeling, systems engineering, data strategies, various project meetings
• Active participation on multiple PHS committees and councils – e.g. CDS, terminology, data governance, research, innovation, etc.
• Responsibility for new EHR innovation environment
Informatics activities (2/2)

• Clinical Informatics Seminar (weekly) – invited speakers from within PHS, academia, industry, etc.

• Lecturing at Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health – senior informaticians, different informatics topics

• Contributions to PHS/HMS Clinical Informatics training and mentoring activities – e.g. fellows, medical resident rotations, nursing graduate students, and medical student rotations
Thank you!

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