Interoperability with IIS: Can it be extended to schools?

AIRA 2013 IIS National Meeting

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The Issue

- Lots of focus on IIS-EHR interoperability, less focus on schools

- Schools are important IIS data users
  - School entrance requirements
  - School clinical activities

- Goal:
  - Can we increase our understanding of current practice in school-IIS interoperability?
  - Can we hypothesize how to best meet school data needs?

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ONC Health IT Buzz Blog (9/19/13)

- Student immunization records can be difficult to obtain

- Health IT allows schools and IIS to work together to obtain student immunizations

- Student Immunization Records help healthcare providers track children's care records

http://www.healthit.gov/buzz-blog/health-innovation/health-school-nurses-parents-physicians-healthcare-providers-access-student-immunization-records-improve-childrens-care-learn/

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Methodology

- Brief e-mail survey using AIRA membership list

- Follow-up via e-mail for additional clarification

- Share results back with the list

- Use results for analysis

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Survey Administration

- First email went out 4/25/2013
- Results trickled in until 5/14/2013
- Total of 30 responses!

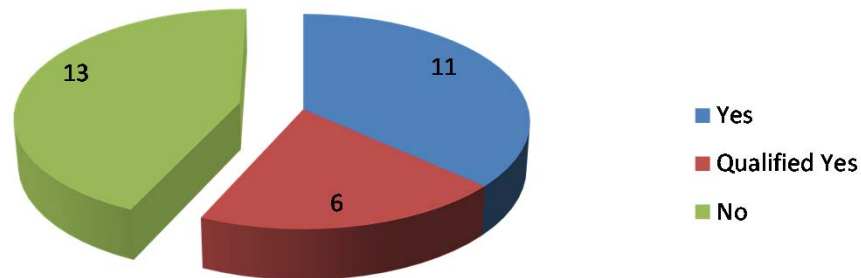|		
AZ	NM	WI
CA (CAIR)	NV	WA
DE	NY	WV
FL	NYC	WY
HI	OH	
IA	OR	
IL	RI	
KS	San Antonio	
MD	San Diego	
ME	TN	
MI	TX	
ND	UT	
NE	VA	

Survey Questions

1. Do you allow access to your interactive web client by school-based personnel for look-up of records? For entry of records/immunizations?

2. Do you allow school-based users to access your query/response capability (e.g., via HL7 web services)? If you don't have such a service, or if you don't currently allow schools to use it, is there any reason why you *wouldn't* allow such access if it were requested and available?

3. Some IIS allow an insurance company (or others) to submit a panel of patients in batch and return data based on a batch query (e.g., to support HEDIS measures on a panel of patients). If you provide such a service, are schools permitted to submit panels of patients (i.e., students)? If not, why (aside from the potential that none have requested it)?
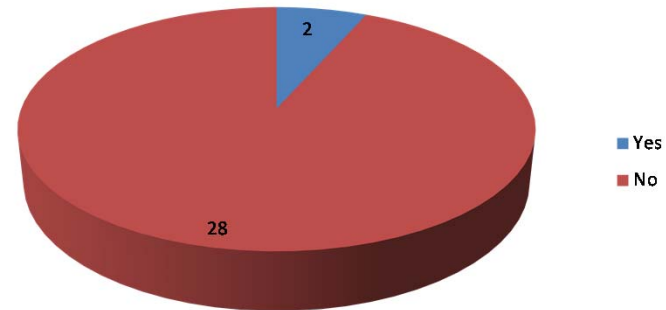
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Survey Results: Web Client

- All respondents allows schools to look up records
- Most respondents allow data entry:

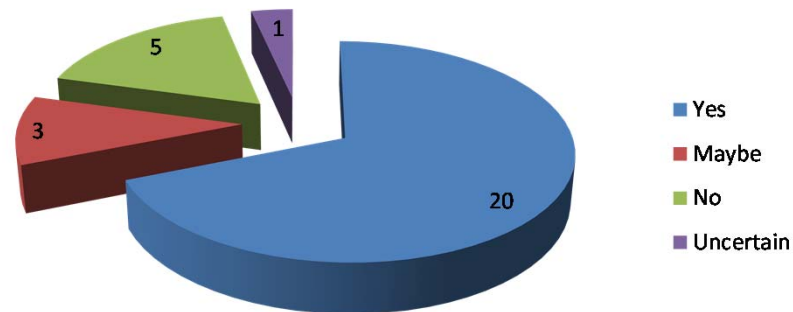|	Legend
	■ Yes
	■ Qualified Yes
	■ No

Survey Results: HL7 Query

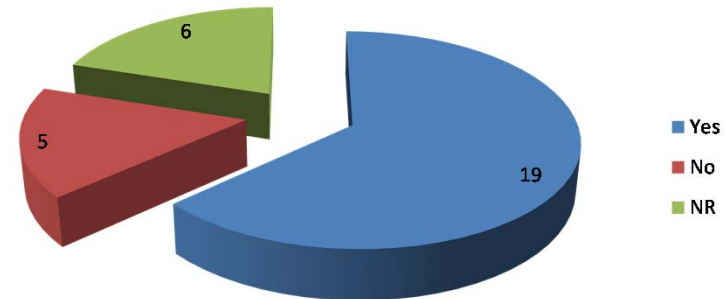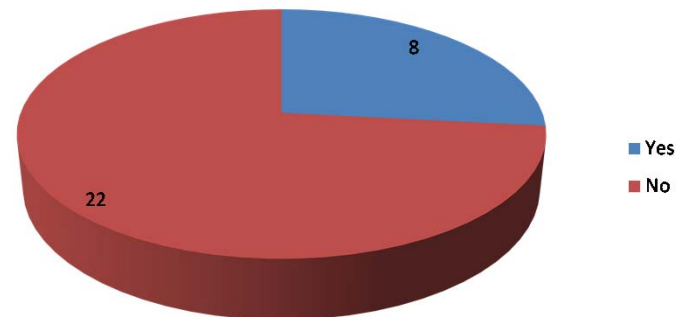- Few respondents are working with schools now:

- Most are willing to, however:

Survey Results: Batch Query
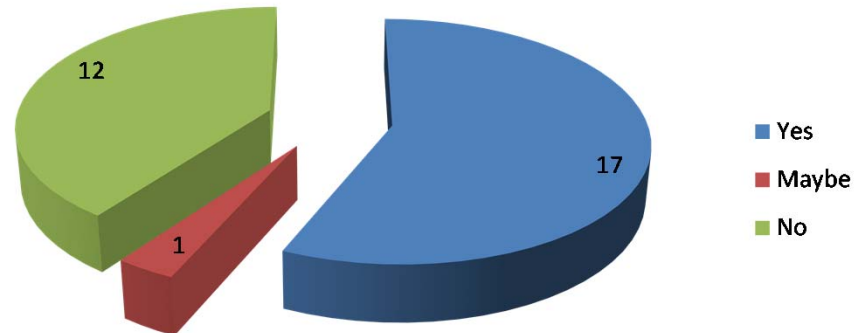
- Most support batch query with payers:

- Few currently are accepting batch queries from schools:

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Survey Results: Batch Query

- **But most would if requested:**

Pie chart with values: 12 (No, green), 17 (Yes, blue), 1 (Maybe, red). Legend: Yes, Maybe, No

- ■ Most assume the *school* is ensuring proper consent under FERPA
- ■ A small number have (or are moving to have) the IIS be the actual system of record for IZ data for schools

Summary of Conclusions

- Schools have lots of access and familiarity with the IIS in most states.

- Schools may need to get consent from parents for *query* because the act of sending demographics as part of an HL7 query may be a FERPA violation without consent. At least one state was asking for a legal opinion on this.

- IIS would prefer options that involve the least effort on their part. That probably means HL7 query via web services. Some effort is still required to set up the connection but if no data is being submitted the effort is very small. Very few projects would *not* allows schools to do this for policy reasons alone.

- Batch query may just be too much trouble for IIS since in many cases the processing is manual or only semi-automated.

- We know nationally that both AIRA and ONC are pushing for more, and more standardized use, of web services query/ response.

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Implications for Action

- Schools have a lot to gain in reduction of data entry from parent-submitted paper forms

- Educate schools and their IT vendors on HL7 query/response standard and encourage its use

- IIS should consider CDS products/services that allow school schedules to be taken into account so schools can benefit from evaluation *and* forecast

- If PHR vendors are interested in supporting parent access for school admission purposes, encourage them to use HL7 and engage IIS in its use

Some Cautions

- **IIS have their hands full with EHR system interoperability, however**
    - Uptake by schools likely slow so best for IIS to try to get started with little fear of being overwhelmed
    - Query-only interfaces significantly easier for IIS to support than data submission interfaces
- **Many schools offer a potentially daunting scale to work with, though**
    - There are far fewer school *districts*

Contact Information

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