

Project Proposal Draft for PACIO Project's Speech, Language, Cognitive Communication, Hearing, and Swallowing Use Case Subgroup

Summary: This project will develop an implementation guide(s) for exchange of data regarding a patient's communication, cognition, and swallowing function to improve transitions of care across healthcare settings.

Description: This project is intended to develop artifacts (FHIR implementation guide(s), reference implementations as needed) to exchange functional patient information including but not limited to cognitive skills, health literacy, feeding and swallowing, multi-modal functional communication (including reading, hearing, writing, verbal and non-verbal language), speech and voice across transitions of care in health care settings. This data is often collected and analyzed, by speech-language pathologists, but may also be collected or assessed by members of an interdisciplinary team or other related professionals in health care settings. The Post-Acute Care Interoperability (PACIO) community has a strong interest in the exchange of this data and will support the community engagement as needed in order to help develop a standard mechanism for EHR interoperability to improve patient care management. Many stakeholders (both clinical and technical) support PACIO, including MITRE, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), and over 30 representatives from the health care industry. The PACIO community formally discussed adding data often collected by speech-language pathologists as a new area of focus on September 16, 2020 and voted 31-0 to approve. The PACIO community noted that the functional patient information listed above as well as inter-professional information regarding a patient's feeding and nutritional status, dietary guidance, and nutritional therapy are often not consistently communicated when a patient transitions between care settings. We will look to work collaboratively with other related projects included but not limited to those working on, nutrition and cognitive status, but with a focus on data often collected and measured by speech-language pathologists as listed above. This data is important because knowledge of a patient's ability to comprehend, communicate, and recall relevant verbal and written information, have improved safety and decreased risks of unsafe events in their environment, have optimal and safe hydration and nutrition, and an improved quality of life. A standardized mechanism for exchange of this data will facilitate consistency of information shared during health care transitions, which will lead to better quality of care and improved functional outcomes.

Potential Sponsoring/Co-Sponsoring Workgroups:

- Patient Care Work Group
- Clinical Quality Information
- Community Based Care and Privacy
- Orders and Observations