



Partnering for Electronic Delivery
of Information in Healthcare

INDUSTRY MAINTENANCE of STANDARDS and OPERATING RULES

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What is WEDI?

◆ **Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange**

- Established 1991
- Named advisor to HHS under HIPAA
- Represents broad cross-section of healthcare industry
- Objective collaborative approach to addressing issues

- ◆ The current process:
 - Allows open participation, but ...
 - Depends on organizations' resources
 - Takes too long
 - Has potential for conflicts
 - Requires multiple implementations

What is the value of the current maintenance process for standards/pitfalls?

◆ Value

- Openness – anyone can participate or request changes; consensus approach

◆ Pitfalls

- Timing – development is a lengthy process
- Adoption – Unpredictable timeframes not synchronized to new versions
- Testing – No established process to pilot standards

What would industry say about the effectiveness of the current process?

◆ Advantages

- Participation - consensus process, multiple viewpoints

◆ Drawbacks

- Participation – dependent on organization's time and resources
- Communication – public communication somewhat limited; operating rules are separate process
- Multiple implementations – compliance dates vary
- References – requirements exist in multiple locations

What are your suggestions for how the maintenance process should work for operating rules?

◆ Definition

- Clearly define standard versus operating rule

◆ Alignment

- Develop in harmony; supplement versus fix

◆ Emergency Changes

- Allow for correction or enhancement

◆ Public Participation

- Enhance public participation and communication

What is not working in the current system?

◆ Conflicts

- Dispute resolution process is needed

◆ Duplication

- TR3 and TR2 versus operating rule

◆ Public Participation

- Limited by practical matters

How can we streamline the change request process for industry stakeholders? (standards and operating rules)

- ◆ Definition
 - Need clear definition of standard vs operating rule
- ◆ Dispute Resolution
 - Need dispute resolution process if conflicts exist
- ◆ Coordination
 - Must coordinate and harmonize activities
- ◆ Emergency Changes
 - Need mechanism to quickly address issues
- ◆ Communication
 - Simplify public participation

Closing

- ◆ Thank you for the opportunity to testify
- ◆ WEDI offers our support
- ◆ WEDI web site: www.wedi.org
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