Developing Local Health Information Exchanges

Submitted by   Brian Gordon   (Colleaga) on   January 18, 2018 - 2:38pm
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Proposal Status: Out of Scope

Project Description:

Accessible health information is the cornerstone of delivering coordinated care across a complex healthcare system that involves local and national institutions, along with hospitals, general practitioners, specialists, testing facilities, insurance companies, government organizations and administrators. It has been demonstrated through research and implementations that combining health information locally and nationally leads to the following benefits:

- Improved patient outcomes by supporting effective care processes across the continuum of care;
- Enhanced patient engagement and experience;
- Reduced current costs and lower future costs for patients and stakeholders in the South African healthcare system;
- Encourage and support the uptake of Electronic Medical Record (EMR) solutions;

To enable information exchange in South Africa, Colleaga, a Global Health System Innovation Collaborative and six large corporate entities in private healthcare in South Africa, namely: Discovery Health, Life Healthcare, Medscheme, Mediclinic, MMI Health and Netcare, have come together to establish a South African Health Information Exchange (HIE.ZA). The mission of the HIE.ZA is to securely provide Health Information Sharing services that improve consumer health outcomes, quality, safety and efficiency, and drive down healthcare system costs for all South Africans.The partners are committed to building an HIE for the private industry and then making it available to the public health system, when the public system is able to implement it. We would like to expand the South African HIE to include local HIE initiatives. However, while there are many open data initiatives, including OpenHIE and OpenMRS, they don't have a common platform that links them together to support local community collaboration.

Colleaga proposes to demonstrate how an innovation sharing and collaboration platform can accelerate and support public health information exchanges in South Africa to enable the sharing of health data between local and national healthcare providers and payers.

In the first part of this project, Colleaga will build a consensus plan, technology architecture plan and implementation project plan for one South African public HIE initiative. The tools developed and information collected to build these plans will be made available to other local HIE initiatives. In the second part of this project, Colleaga will build upon the national South African implementation to develop the specification for the Open Beneficiary / Patient Identification and Validation function which we will contribute to the Open HIE movement.

Since some of the main participants in this initiative are payors, the product will also focus on beneficiary / patient identification and validation. This specification will complement the current work being done by the OpenHIE to develop an Open Health Insurance specification.

Funding from Digital Square will support the following objectives:

Objective 1 - Develop the consensus, technology architecture and implementation plans: To support the development of the consensus plan, technology architecture plan and implementation project plan, Colleaga will use the Colleaga Innovation platform to build a Community of Practice in Local Health Information Exchanges. All healthcare providers, payers and other stakeholders will be invited to the Community of Practice where they will have access to:

- Collaboration tools for the team to work together effectively;
- A global innovation commons and network to openly share solutions, articles, tools and templates that have worked elsewhere in the world;
- Mentors, influencers and knowledge in how to build and implement local health information exchanges;
- Crowdsourcing and open innovation tools to discuss and ideate around data exchange and security;

- Sophisticated state of the art computing, artificial intelligence and learning environments that solvers can use to develop the solution more quickly and with greater competitive differentiators;

Colleaga will make this environment available to one South African public HIE initiative and demonstrate how access to these tools can accelerate other South African local HIE initiatives.

Estimated cost for phase 1: $150,000

- $60,000 for licenses to the Colleaga platform
- $90,000 for the deliverables and completion of the engagement.

Objective 2: Specification Development– In this phase, we will build upon the HIE.ZA implementation to develop the specification for the Open Beneficiary / Patient Identification and Validation function which we will contribute to the Open HIE movement.

Estimated cost for Objective 2: $80,000

Consortium Team

Colleaga - Colleaga Board Chair Dan Gordon has been part of the HIE.ZA from the beginning. To develop the HIE.ZA, the Colleaga Innovation Platform and Process was used. For this project, the online platform will be used to build innovation communities related to HIEs. Within these communities, experts and stakeholder will identify international best practices and explore implementation strategies to link local and national HIEs together.

Each of Discovery Health, Life Healthcare, Medscheme, Mediclinic, MMI Health and Netcare has identified representatives for the HIE.ZA initiative and those same individuals will be the points of contact for this project. These companies will bring their data and expertise.

Members of the OpenHIE community will be invited onto the Colleaga platform to join the team. We are still identifing who those collaborators will be.

The one South African public HIE initiative is also being identified.

Commenting is closed.