Responses to questions not covered during the ONC presentation

Question: Are you looking for private partners to contact you to discuss new apps for interoperable data capture, especially related to FHIR and CQL interoperability? I especially think about FHIR for the non-healthcare related stakeholder data exchange. Ex. SDOH data we collect would impact policy for HUD, DOT, DOE, etc.

Answer: Yes we would be interested in any information partners want to share about experiences with data they are capturing in this space.

Question: How will USCDI address 3 primary barriers to interoperability: Policy, Financial, and Technical?

Answer: Policy – Adoption of USCDI is advanced through a series of HHS policies to support widespread uptake of capabilities to exchange this information, particularly through the ONC certification program and CMS Promoting Interoperability programs. Financial – While USCDI alone does not address financial barriers directly, use of this common standard can reduce development burden and costs across implementers. Technical – the data classes and elements in USCDI are tied to specific vocabulary standards to ensure interoperability when exchanging USCDI.

Question: Are the consequences to EHR vendors not being USCDI capable or not supporting FHIR?

Answer: To receive certification for certain key capabilities under ONC's certification program, EHR vendors must support USCDI and FHIR APIs. Use of technology meeting this certification is required for providers participating in CMS' Promoting Interoperability programs, so vendors seeking to support customers in these programs would need to support these capabilities.