Reviewer's report

Title: Integrated Personal Health Records: Transformative Tools for Consumer-Centric Care

Version: 3 Date: 6 July 2008

Reviewer: William Yasnoff

Reviewer's report:

Summary

This revision has effectively addressed the concerns in the original manuscript. It now represents a balanced and comprehensive contribution to the increasingly important topic of integrated personal health records (PHRs). Just a few additional minor changes are needed.

Minor Essential Revisions

p. 10, "Privacy Standards" -- eliminate reference to "covered entities" as this inadvertently implies a HIPAA framework. Change "covered entities regarding protected health information" to "organizations holding PHR data"

p. 11, "Lack of Financial Resources" -- "public health safety net agencies" mischaracterizes community health centers as having a "public health" function. Change "public health safety net agencies" to "health care safety net agencies"

p. 17, last paragraph of research agenda section. Add reference to recent Connecting for Health consumer survey regarding PHRs with a focus on privacy (or include as part of the Conclusion as an example of a well-designed survey)


Disclosure: Since Google Health is explicitly mentioned in this paper, a disclosure statement indicating Dr. Tang's membership on the Google Health Advisory Council should be included.

Minor Discretionary Revision

p. 15, line 1, closed quotes missing after "information"

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I am Founder and President of the Health Record Banking Alliance (HRBA), a non-profit organization that promotes patient-controlled repositories of health information (no compensation). There is a reference to HRBA in this manuscript.