Curriculum Development Centers Program

Awardee of The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

HEALTH IT WORKFORCE CURRICULUM
COMPONENT BLUEPRINT
Version 3.0/Spring 2012

Component Number: 13
Component Name: Public Health Information Technology

Component Description: This component is designed for individuals specifically contemplating careers in public health agencies. The unit will provide an overview of specialized public health applications such as registries, epidemiological databases, biosurveillance, and situational awareness and emergency response. In addition it will include information exchange issues specific to public health.

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This material was developed by Columbia University, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology under Award Number 1U24OC000003.

Component Objectives:
Upon completion of this component, the student will be able to:
1. Distinguish (draw distinctions) among core functions and essential services of 'public health' and 'clinical care'.
2. Synthesize key reasons and current contextual factors for providers in clinical practice to improve public health services and practices using EHRs
3. Apply health data definitions and standards, as well as privacy and confidentiality issues, in typical public health scenarios.
4. Summarize the strategies, features, and systems needed for public health agencies to define and build the necessary connections to EHRs as identified by meaningful use legislation.
5. Describe the roles and functions of existing public health data and health databases and networks
6. Identify current needs and future directions for EHR biosurveillance, disaster-preparedness, and situational awareness in improving public health.
7. Summarize/describe the main role, functions and applications of public health reporting, alerts and decision support systems.
8. Summarize the role, functions and applications of public health IT for health promotion and chronic disease prevention
9. Delineate the critical role of advocacy in adoption/use of EHRs and Consumer functions for PHRs to improve public health.

Component Units with Objectives and Topics

Unit 1:
Overview & contribution to public health through Electronic Health Record use

Description:
Synthesize key reasons and current contextual factors for providers in clinical practice to improve public health practice using EHRs.

Objectives:
By the end of this unit students will be able to:
1. Explain what is public health?
2. Discuss what distinguishes public health from the other health sciences
3. Explain public health's unique contributions to the health of the public
4. To define Public Health (PH) Information Technology and PH Informatics
5. To illustrate how innovative IT solutions are being applied to PH practice
6. To explain the role of electronic health records and data exchange to clinical care and health care improvement
7. Describe PH organizational structure

Topics:

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A. Introduction to Public Health
B. Historical Context of Public Health
C. Opportunities for Public Health enabled electronic health records
D. Public Health + Health Information Technology (PHIT)
E. Public Health Informatics

Unit 2:
Privacy, Confidentiality and Security of Public Health Information

Description:
Apply health data definitions and standards, as well as privacy and confidentiality issues, in typical public health scenarios.
[Note: This outcome applies jointly to units 2 and 3, which are related.]

Objectives:
Students will be able to:
1. Identify the exercise of principles of privacy, confidentiality, and security of public health information, in scenarios involving patients and health practitioners.
2. Identify the types of laws/Acts applicable to the treatment of public health information.
3. Locate resources for applicable state, local, and federal laws and/or Acts
4. Interpret the treatment of and apply applicable laws/Acts to public health information in given patient or practitioner scenarios.
5. Identify the functions of a “covered entity” and a “business associate” in relation to the treatment of public health information.
6. Describe the objectives and roles of the HIPAA Privacy Rule and exceptions to HIPAA as they apply to public health.
6a. Identify patient rights under the Notice of Privacy Practices
6b. Describe the potential civil and criminal penalties for a HIPAA violation
6c. Identify and summarize each HIPAA security requirement (administrative, physical, and technical)
6d. Discuss policy, procedures, contracts, and plans in administrative safeguards
6e. Describe how the physical environment can impact security of information and develop solutions
6f. Discuss technical strategies that can be implemented for security purposes
7. Identify the type of information that requires protection (e.g., diseases, demographics) and list examples
8. Demonstrate the application of principles for the appropriate release of required patient information in given scenarios.
9. Identify examples of circumstances when patient information may be used without patient authorization.
10. Summarize the ARRA/HITECH amendments to HIPAA.

Topics:
A. Privacy

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B. Confidentiality
C. Security
D. Laws, Acts & Public Health
E. Statutory & Regulatory
F. Health Insurance portability and Accountability Act

Unit 3:
Data Standards in Public Health Information Technology

Description:
Apply health data definitions and standards, as well as privacy and confidentiality issues, in typical public health scenarios.
[Note: This outcome applies jointly to units 2 and 3, which are related.]

Objectives:
Students will be able to:
1. Identify the architecture categories for information systems and explain the differences
2. Summarize objectives of an enterprise architecture plan
3. Identify the objectives of data standards for public health
4. Describe the different types of standards required (e.g., information, clinical data representation, technical, medication terminology, and privacy and security)
5. Identify the factors involved in grammar data standards for communicating in public health informatics
6. Identify the principles of context regarding data standards for communicating public health informatics
7. Identify universal vocabularies and classification systems applicable to public health (CPT, ICD-0)
8. Identify and compare associations and/or organizations developing standards (e.g., CCHIT, HL7, American Society for Testing and Materials)

Topics:
A. Architecture of Information Systems
B. Data Standards
C. Information
D. Communication & Internet Technologies
E. Technical
F. Privacy & Security

Unit 4:
Public health enabled electronic health records and the role of public health in health information exchange

Description:

This material was developed by Columbia University, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology under Award Number 1U24OC000003.

Summarize/describe the main role, functions and applications of public health-enabled Electronic Health Records (EHRs).

Objectives:
Students will be able to:
1. Discuss the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene partnership with a commercial EHR vendor and how it created a public health-enabled EHR.
2. Describe the EHR "meaningful use" movement and how it could transform existing clinical/public health practices.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of public health-oriented clinical decision support including an integrated strategy using multiple tools such as alerts, order sets, smart forms, and quality reporting.
4. Describe the strategies, features, and systems needed for public health agencies to define and build the necessary connections to EHRs as identified by the "meaningful use" legislation.
5. Identify the essential features of four primary public health IT functions including syndromic surveillance, bi-directional immunization registries, public health alerts, ad-hoc reporting, etc.

Topics:
A. Primary Care Information Projects (PCIP)
B. Meaningful Use Goals
C. Improve Population Health
D. Syndromic Surveillance
E. Immunization Registries
F. Public Health Alerts & Ad-Hoc Reporting

Unit 5:
Epidemiological databases and registries – Public health information tools

Description:
Explain how varying types of information technologies have application in public health practice.

Objectives:
Students will be able to:
1. Identify the functions and key issues of epidemiology compared to clinical practice
2. Define and distinguish among the components that make up epidemiology
3. Identify the difference between environmental and mechanistic causes of disease
4. Describe the components of epidemiological reasoning
5. List the different types of epidemiology
6. Define clinical epidemiology and its relationship with evidence-based practice
7. Explain the current applications of epidemiology and how the results influence evidence-based practice

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8. Identify different sources of epidemiological databases and how information is updated and exchanged with clinical entities
9. Describe the purpose of a registry, the types of information contained within a public health registries and how this information can be used
10. Identify the defining characteristics of epidemiological registries
11. Identify different entities that operate registries and how information from clinical practice gets imported into these registries
12. Identify security and access issues in the information exchange between communities, clinical institutions, public health departments and federal agencies involved in public health prevention and control.

Topics:
A. Epidemiology- Introduction
B. Epidemiology Databases & Registries
C. Information Exchange

Unit 6:
Biosurveillance, Situational awareness and disaster response

Description:
Identify current needs and future directions for EHR biosurveillance, disaster-preparedness, and situational awareness in improving public health.

Objectives:
Students will be able to:
1. Describe the traditional means used to monitor and report on disease spread within a community
2. Identify current data sources used to track disease
2a. Describe the typical process of syndromic surveillance.
3. Identify strengths and weaknesses of using EHRs for biosurveillance
4. Describe process for monitoring, reporting, and analyzing EHR biosurveillance data
5. Identify how current and future findings from EHR biosurveillance improve public health operations and services

Topics:
A. Syndromic Surveillance Overview
B. Electronic Health Record Syndromic Surveillance during 2009-Pandemic H1N1 in NYC

Unit 7:
Public health reporting, alerts and decision support

Description:
Summarize the essential public health services and methods by which they can be

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improved through the use of EHRs in the context of the clinical care environment.

Objectives:
Students will be able to:
1. Describe the current role of public health in the context of the clinical care environment
2. Identity and describe three essential to public health services: Monitor Health; Diagnose/Investigate; Inform, Educate, Empower
3. Identify current public health practices challenges in the essential public health services of: Monitor Health; Diagnose/Investigate; and Inform, Educate, Empower
4. Identify the opportunities and limitations for EHRs to address these challenges in three primary areas (syndromic surveillance, notifiable disease reporting, and public health case investigation)
5. Describe challenges & limitations of EHRs to address these service areas

Topics:
A. Define public health
B. Role of public health enabled Electronic Health Records (EHRs) & Health Information Exchange (HIE)
C. Monitor Health
D. Diagnosis and Investigate
E. Inform. Educate & Empower

Unit 8:
The potential of public health IT for health promotion and chronic disease prevention

Description:
Explain a novel approach to developing and implementing health promotion programs in public health practice.

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Objectives:
Students will be able to:
1. Describe and categorize issues/questions, data sets and factors (variables) that are used in descriptive epidemiology.
2. Describe how evidence-based recommendations may be appropriately used in implementing and evaluating health promotion and disease prevention.
3. Describe different types of health promotion and disease prevention and different methods of enacting health promotion programs.
4. Identify the steps in the process of implementing and evaluating prevention programs and interventions.
5. Identify the clinical preventive services that are linked to health promotion and disease prevention.
6. Describe how informatics can be incorporated into clinical preventive services.
7. Describe the history and foundation of geographic information systems and explain its role in evidence-based practice.
8. Identify the barriers to incorporating public health IT into clinical practice and potential methods for resolving these limitations.
9. Identify the existing and innovative methods for communicating and sharing health information with the public.

Topics:
A. Descriptive Epidemiology
B. Health Research
C. Health Prevention
D. Intervention Methods
E. Innovation
F. Synthesis & Translation
G. Interactive Health Technologies

Unit 9:
Quality Reporting

Description:
Summarize/describe the main role, functions and applications of public health reporting, alerts and decision support systems.

Objectives:
Students will be able to:
1. Identify/describe important characteristics and components of useful health care quality measurement systems
2. Identify the past and present efforts to transform medical practice through pay-for-performance initiatives.
3. Identify national group efforts involved in the establishment of quality standards/metrics (NCQA, NQF, etc.) based upon claims and EHR data.

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4. Describe how quality metrics are integrated, tracked, and used in EHRs and describe real-world implementations in eClinicalWorks, EPIC, NextGen.
5. Describe the use of EHR-based quality metrics in pay-for-performance incentive projects.
6. Summarize the preliminary findings/conclusions from the EHR pay-for-performance project and possible future directions.

Topics:
A. Health Systems and Quality Care (Principles)
B. Data Sources
C. Pay for Performance Design Quality Measures for Rewards
D. using Quality Measures to Achieve Meaningful Use

Unit 10:
Encouraging adoption/use of population health functions for EHRs and Consumer functions for PHRs

Description:
Delineate the critical role of advocacy in adoption/use of EHRs and Consumer functions for PHRs to improve public health.

Objectives:
Students will be able to:
1. Identify and describe population health functions of EHRs.
2. Describe the meaningful use criteria that are applicable to public health, population health, disease management and prevention.
3. Provide examples of common PHR systems (Microsoft HealthVault, Vendor-specific PHRs) and identify embedded consumer functions.
4. Describe EHR adoption and use, with a focus on fidelity to public health goals.
5. Describe the challenges in and barriers to adoption and use of population health functions for EHRs and Consumer functions for PHR.
6. Explain and apply a rationale that would encourage adoption and use of public health functions for EHRs and Consumer functions for PHR.
7. Demonstrate the ability to formulate a plan to encourage adoption and use of population health functions for EHRs and Consumer functions for PHR, given a setting, population and workflow environment.

Topics:
A. Population Health Functions of Electronic Health Records (Introduction)
B. Meaningful Use Criteria for Public Health, Population Health, Disease Management & Prevention
C. Common Personal Health Record Systems (PHRs)
D. Electronic Health Record Adoption and Use
E. Barriers to Adoption and Use of Population Health Functions for Electronic Health

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Records and Personal Health Records
F. Encourage Adoption and Use of Population Health functions for EHRs and PHRs

Unit Elements:
Instructors manual, self-assessment questions, and application activities

Format:
Slides with narration; video including screen shot simulations

Size/Contract Hours:
10 units; each with 20-25 minutes of lecture, 5-10 self-assessment questions and approximately ½ hour homework per unit

Local Resources Required for Implementation:
Computer; Internet connection (optional)

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