Building Effective IM-IT Governance in the Primary & Community Health Sector

Big Thinking in ICT and EHR eHealth Conference 2016

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Presentation Objectives

- Explore common IM-IT challenges and discuss their impact on the primary and community health sector
- Discuss how IM-IT governance can address these challenges
- Review the key components of an IM-IT governance framework
- Present a starting point for strengthening IM-IT governance in the primary and community health sector





- 1 Primary Care
- 2 Public Health
- 3 Health Promotion
- 4 Chronic Disease Management
- 5 Community Support

- <20 200 staff
- Regionally focused
- Resource constrained



Health System Priorities

- 1 Enhance coordination and integration of care
- 2 Ensure timely access to care
- 3 Integrate research, innovation and analytics in the delivery of care

- 4 Promote patient-centred care
- 5 Promote interdisciplinary team-based care
- 6 Improve sustainability and efficiency in the delivery of health services

Impact on Primary & Community Health

- Need for better access to high quality data to support care delivery and reporting requirements
- > Need for well defined information sharing practices and protocols
- Expanding number of electronic systems/applications resulting in increasingly complex IM-IT environments
- > Challenges with fit-for-use of key clinical systems and tools across interdisciplinary teams
- Increasing drive towards consolidation and/or enhanced partnerships between health and community support agencies

Why do we have so many systems that are doing the same thing?

Our IT support firm says we need to spend \$30,000 on a new server. Does that make sense?

Our clinicians want to share patient data with our community partners – is that too risky?

Common IM-IT Related Questions

Our clinicians say the system doesn't meet their needs.

We paid a fortune for that new EMR – why can't we get reports we need?

We don't really know what information we have and where it is



1 (Manage Risk

- What are the risks in the way we use information and information technology?
- How can we manage and monitor these risks?

2 Maximize Value

- Are we getting value for our investments in information and information technology?
- How can we measure the value of our investments?



Common IM-IT Challenges

- IM-IT not seen as a strategic enabler of the organization
- IM-IT not represented at broader leadership tables
- No defined leadership for IM-IT
- Ad hoc and/or siloed IM-IT decision-making processes and structures
- Lack of visibility on IM-IT expenses and risks
- Challenges with recruiting and retaining skilled IM-IT resources

How can IM-IT governance support this sector in addressing these challenges?



Defining IM-IT Governance

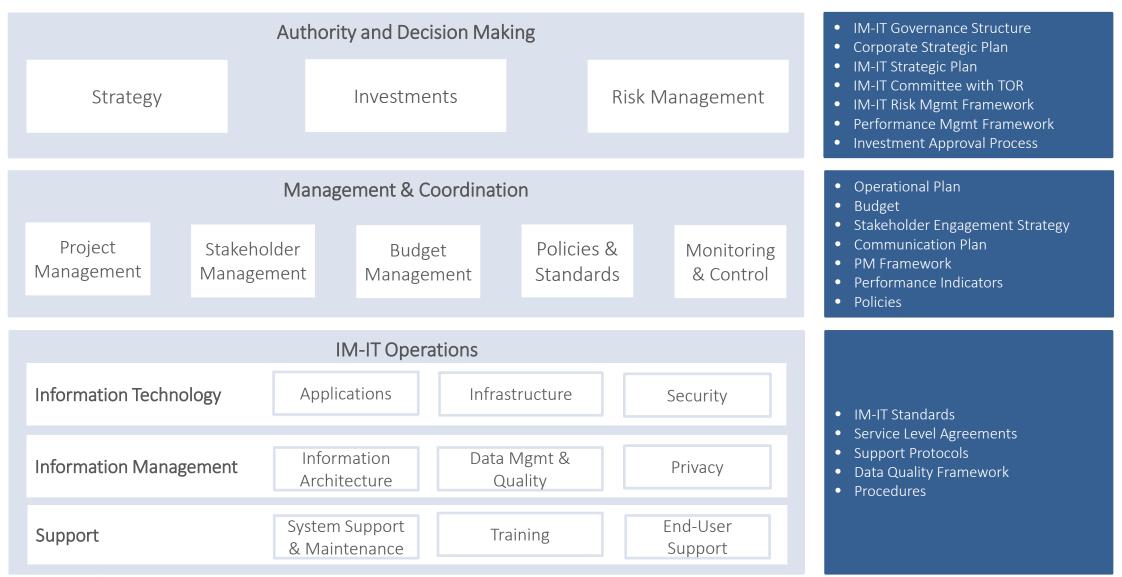
Information Management and Information Technology (IM-IT) governance refers to the formalized decision-making structure, organizational roles and responsibilities, and the set of rules, standards and operational practices that guide the use of information and IT to enable an organization to achieve its strategic and operational goals.



Why IM-IT Governance?

- Positions IM-IT as a valued strategic asset to support the organization in achieving its goals and priorities
- Supports proactive IM-IT risk management and compliance with regulatory requirements and standards
- Embeds IM-IT into the broader organizational culture
- Determines accountability for managing IM-IT
- Aids in prioritizing IM-IT investments

Components of an IM-IT Governance Framework





So, how does a smaller, resource constrained organization get started with IM-IT governance?



Getting Started on the Road to Effective IM-IT Governance



 Establish decision-making structure, processes, roles and responsibilities



 Consider investing in leadership to guide IM-IT, or explore opportunities for shared resource with partner orgs



 Communicate the importance of adhering to IM-IT governance structures and ongoing measurement and improvement

- Communicate the issues and sell the benefits.
 Identify a senior champion to support the way forward
- Define Decisionmaking Structure
- Explore alignment between information and IT and the organization's strategic and operational goals



 Review information and IT assets, including how they are used, where they are stored, use of standards, reporting requirements





Thank You!

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