CMS Continuity Assessment Record & Evaluation (CARE)

Northrop Grumman is playing a key role in a Medicare project called Continuity Assessment Record & Evaluation (CARE). CARE is an Internet-based Uniform Patient Assessment Instrument being developed to measure and compare Medicare beneficiaries' health and functional status across provider settings over time. Northrop Grumman is the software developer for this important Web-based tool supporting the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Historically, Medicare benefits and payment policies have focused on phases of illness, defined by specific site of service, rather then patient characteristics and care needs. Currently, there are three existing instruments to collect health status data. These three instruments, however, have incompatible data formats, different scales and different assessment periods, making it difficult to compare outcomes and utilization across providers over time.

The goal of the CARE project is to provide an electronic, standardized patient assessment instrument that will:

- Identify patient characteristics and needs
- Rapidly communicate key information between providers, consistent with the Institute of Medicine's six critical aims
- Serve as a continuity of care record to support clinical excellence
- Optimize efficiencies available through information technology advances
- Move CMS toward an electronic health record.

Northrop Grumman was awarded the CARE project in March 2007 and the online Web application became operational in March 2008. A second major piece of functionality is under development to enable providers to exchange information from their legacy systems to CARE via a data import process using health information exchange standards such as Health Level 7 (HL7). CARE will be tested over a 3-year demonstration starting in early 2008. The results of the test and associated analysis are scheduled to be reported to Congress in 2011. At that time, a decision will be made whether to fully implement the instrument nationwide.

www.northropgrumman.com/health
Health Solutions, 3975 Virginia Mallory Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151
Northrop Grumman, 7575 Colshire Drive, McLean, VA 22102 703-556-1000