Dear Colleagues:

We started 2020 with alarming news about the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Acting on its mission to solve problems for a safer world, MITRE developed Sara Alert, an open source tool, to enable public health departments to monitor and rapidly respond to virus exposures (see inside). Further, in keeping with the Department of Health and Human Services’ strategic objective to prepare children for healthy and productive lives, we spotlight, in this edition of MITRE Health Innovations, our work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the Childhood Obesity Data Initiative, a breakthrough resource in addressing obesity in America. We also highlight a collaboration tool by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and MITRE to enable better healthcare quality reporting, and a cancer data summit to improve the care journey for cancer patients. As always, I welcome your feedback at healthinnovations@mitre.org.

Yours sincerely,
Patty Steinbrech
Vice President and Director
CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (Health FFRDC)

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**Featured in this issue:**
- Sara Alert to monitor COVID-19 | MITRE
- Simplifying Quality Measurement in Healthcare | Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Addressing Childhood Obesity | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- mCODE™ with CodeX—A Smarter Way to Fight Cancer | MITRE
MITRE Develops Sara Alert, an Open Source Tool to Monitor and Respond Rapidly to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In response to the global outbreak of COVID-19—with more than 82,000 confirmed cases and 2,800 deaths reported so far—MITRE developed a standards-based, open source tool called Sara Alert to support effective monitoring and rapid response. The tool, developed in partnership with public health experts at the federal, state, and local levels, provides increased efficiency in tracking potential cases, leading to earlier containment of the virus and reduction of burden on public health resources. Sara Alert allows potentially exposed individuals to enter symptoms daily, providing public health departments real-time insights to monitor exposure and respond quickly for care coordination and follow-up. The tool is disease-independent, so it can be refined to support future disease outbreaks.

Questions? Email SaraAlert@mitre.org.

New Portal Facilitates Easy Sharing of Feedback on Healthcare Quality Measures, Sharpens Lens on Patient Care

The recently launched Measure Collaboration (MC) Workspace, an active collaboration tool developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and MITRE, introduces efficiencies into the process of proposing quality measures to assess patient care. Providers and stakeholders can now informally and quickly propose ideas for clinical quality measures to CMS directly and get real-time feedback from the community of users. An outcome of the CMS Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Strategy Project and the Patients Over Paperwork initiative aimed at reducing burdensome regulations, the MC Workspace introduces time and process efficiencies in submitting new measure concepts, clinical workflow, testing, and data mapping.

Learn more at https://ecqi.healthit.gov/mcw-faqs.

Interested in re-using the technology? Email healthinnovations@mitre.org.

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1. At the time of print. From Coronavirus 2019-nCoV Global Cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE.
CODI: A Data-Driven Approach for Addressing the Childhood Obesity Crisis in America

Nearly 14 million children in the United States are affected by childhood obesity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is on a mission to change that with the Childhood Obesity Data Initiative (CODI)—and MITRE is helping them get there. CODI provides researchers and public health scientists access to key childhood obesity-related data via integrated, user-friendly, and privacy-protected resources.

"Being able to integrate existing information from health systems and community organizations via a resource such as CODI is a breakthrough to aid researchers to make real progress against the public health crisis of childhood obesity."

– Alyson Goodman, Medical Epidemiologist, CDC Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity

Learn more about CODI at www.mitre.org/project-stories/CODI. Interested in CODI’s open access resources or want to become a collaborator? Email codi@cdc.gov.

Cancer Data Summit Convened by MITRE Accelerates the Adoption of mCODE™, a Smarter Way to Fight Cancer

Cancer patients, providers, researchers, payers, vendors, and regulators participated in the Cancer Data Summit led by MITRE in McLean, Virginia. The goal? To strategize about how to leverage data in the fight against cancer by implementing a new cancer data standard, mCODE, via CodeX, a new HL7 FHIR Accelerator founded by MITRE. CodeX holds tremendous promise to help stakeholders shape the future of mCODE for specific use cases, ushering in improvements in cancer care and research.

Featured L-R in the photo above from the Summit are Dr. Jay Schnitzer, Chief Technology Officer of MITRE; Dr. John Halamka, President of the Mayo Clinic Platform; and Dr. Victor Dzau, President, National Academy of Medicine.

Learn more at https://tinyurl.com/un2f2y5. Interested in leveraging mCODE to address data interoperability in cancer care? Email healthinnovations@mitre.org.
About the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (Health FFRDC)

The CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (Health FFRDC) accelerates innovation by connecting people and data to reinvent health systems, enhance the care experience, and protect and promote the health and well-being of all Americans. Sponsored by CMS in conjunction with all Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) staff and operating divisions, the Health FFRDC serves as an objective adviser to all HHS organizations and other federal agencies with health and human services missions. As operator of the Health FFRDC, MITRE combines cross-cutting capabilities in health policy, clinical informatics, interoperability, and data analytics with world-class information technology, systems engineering, and prototyping to improve the health and well-being of the nation.

About MITRE

MITRE’s mission-driven teams are dedicated to solving problems for a safer world. Through public-private partnerships and federally funded research and development centers, we work across government and in partnership with industry to tackle challenges to the safety, stability, and well-being of our nation. Join us at www.mitre.org.

About MITRE Health Innovations newsletter