Suggested Exercises and Discussion Questions

1. What is the purpose of the meaningful use regulations?

    The meaningful use regulations are intended to ensure that when electronic health records are implemented that they are used in meaningful ways. The regulations will support the five underlying goals of the healthcare system:
    Improving quality, safety and efficiency
    Engaging patients in their care
    Increasing coordination of care
    Improving the health status of the population
    Ensuring privacy and security

2. Review the criteria for certification in as outline in the (Interim) Final Rule. Compare this to the current certification requirements established by CCHIT. Will CCHIT's current certification program meet the requirements identified by the ONC or will CCHIT need to update their certification program?

    The ONC Interim Final Rule is referenced in the suggested readings.   The Final Rule will be available soon (July 2010). The CCHIT certification requirements and test scripts are located at http://www.cchit.org/get_certified.   Students should be able to evaluate the certification requirements at a very basic level.

3. Part of meaningful use is to participate in health information exchange efforts that are either established or beginning in nearly every state. Investigate an HIE effort in progress. What efforts are being made to implement a statewide HIE? Who is leading the initiative? Who are the parties involved? Are the content exchange and vocabulary standards that are required by the Interim Final Rule for the HIT Standards, implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria being considered in the HIE planning process?

    The discussion will vary based on the HIE being evaluated.

4. Use a search engine to locate the specific requirements for a PQRI indicator that will be reported using a certified EHR for meaningful use by an eligible provider. Verify that this PQRI indicator is included as a meaningful use quality measure for an eligible provider. How will the EHR determine the summary data to provide for this quality measure?

    The current PQRI information is located at http://www.cms.gov/PQRI/20_AlternativereportingMechanisms.asp. The downloads area has a file that lists the current PQRI indicators and the CPT Codes and ICD-9-CM codes that comprise

that information. On October 1, 2013 the ICD-9-CM codes will change to ICD-10-CM/PCS. As the certified EHR's mature data may be extracted with SNOMED-CT as well. Presently the 2010 PQRI indicators are listed but these are included in the proposed rule for the EHR incentive program under meaningful use.