



The Honorable Micky Tripathi, PhD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St SW, Floor 7
Washington, DC 20201

Dear National Coordinator Tripathi,

We welcome the opportunity to comment in support of including the Self-Identified Need for Contraception (SINC) data element in USCDI v3. We support the inclusion of SINC in USCDI and hope you will add it to the latest version of USCDI.

We represent Upstream USA, a nonprofit that partners with states to provide training and technical assistance to health centers to increase access to contraception and address disparities and biases in contraceptive care. Our transformative approach empowers patients to decide if and when they want to become pregnant, a critical step towards improving maternal health and positive outcomes for parents and children. To date, Upstream is partnering or has partnered with more than 90 healthcare agencies across Delaware, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Washington State. The agencies we work with serve approximately 700,000 women of reproductive age each year.

A core feature of our work with these healthcare agencies is supporting them to integrate standardized screening for reproductive health needs for patients of reproductive age to assess patient needs and improve their access to healthcare services. The SINC tool can provide our partner agencies with a validated approach for screening patients for their contraceptive desires.

We support the inclusion of the SINC tool and associated standardized codes in USCDI because we believe doing so will facilitate faster and easier data reporting in support of monitoring and evaluation in clinical and quality improvement settings.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate the important work of ONC and the USCDI system.

Sincerely,

Emily Decker
Measurement, Evaluation & Learning Director
Upstream USA

Sara Harris
Director of Federal Policy & Advocacy
Upstream USA