



April 15, 2024

Micky Tripathi, Ph.D., M.P.P., National Coordinator for Health IT
Steven Posnack, M.S., M.H.S., Deputy National Coordinator for Health IT
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Health and Human Services

Re: Request for Public Comment, Draft United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) v5

Submitted electronically to <https://www.healthit.gov/isa/united-states-core-data-interoperability-uscdi#draft-uscdi-v5>

Dear Dr. Tripathi and Mr. Posnack,

Hartford Healthcare submits the following comment regarding ONC's Request for Public Comment on the Draft USCDI v5 posted in January, 2024. With more than 41,000 colleagues, Hartford HealthCare's unified culture enhances access, affordability, equity and excellence. Its care-delivery system — with nearly 500 locations serving 185 towns and cities — includes two tertiary-level teaching hospitals, an acute-care community teaching hospital, an acute-care hospital and trauma center, three community hospitals, a behavioral health network, a multispecialty physician group, a clinical care organization, a regional home care system, an array of senior care services, a mobile neighborhood health program and a comprehensive physical therapy and rehabilitation network.

We welcome the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed USCDI v5.

HHC supports the inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity, sex assigned at birth, name used, pronouns and anatomical inventory in HL7.

Knowing these important demographic and clinical elements is necessary in order to provide culturally affirming and responsive health care.

These data elements are critical to be able to inform clinical decision support, preventive screenings, and for managing health inequities and disparities at the population level.

In addition to being able to better provide person-centered, customized, coordinated care, having this information will allow HHC to further be able to identify inequities and disparities, conduct targeted interventions, monitor best practice, and find the optimal opportunities to conduct in depth training and education.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on USCDI v5. We appreciate your support of SOGI data collection, and collection of pronouns and "name to use," to improve quality of care and to enhance LGBTQIA+ health equity. Should you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Burnham, Director Health Equity, stephanie.burnham@hhchealth.org,