Task Force Draft Presentation: Outline

• Task Force Members
• Task Force Charge
• Definitions
• Introduction
• Recommendations
  » Stages for Data Class Promotion & Objective Characteristics for Promotion
  » Expansion Process
  » Publication Frequency
  » Additional Recommendations
• Questions and Feedback
# USCDI Task Force Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
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U.S. Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) Charge

• **Overarching Charge:** Review and provide feedback on the U.S. Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) structure and process.

• **Specific Charge:** Provide recommendations on the following:
  
  » Mechanisms/approaches to receive stakeholder feedback regarding data class priorities;
  
  » The proposed categories to which data classes would be promoted and objective characteristics for promotion;
  
  » How the USCDI would be expanded and by how much; and
  
  » Any factors associated with the frequency with which it would be published.
Definition of Terms

- **Data Class:** A high level grouping of similar data types. For example “Demographics”. A Data Class is made up of Data Objects.

- **Data Object:** A single representation or example of a data class. For example “Address” is a Data Object within “Demographics”. Data Objects have Attributes.

- **Data Object Attribute:** A specific parameter, measurement or other description of a data object. For example: “Street name, Street Number, Zip Code” are attributes within “Address”.

![Diagram showing the relationship between Data Class, Data Object, and Data Object Attribute]

- **Data Class**: A high level grouping of similar data types. E.g. Social Determinants of Health.
- **Data Object**: A single representation or example of a Data Class. E.g. Economic Stability.
- **Data Object Attribute**: A specific parameter, measurement, or other description of a Data Object. E.g. Employment, Income, etc.
Definition of Terms

• **Stakeholder:** An individual or entity with an interest in advancing data classes through the USCDI process.

• **Data Class Work Group (DCWG):** A formal group of stakeholders with the responsibility to define the data class, apply applicable semantic standards, harmonize data elements and produce a data class sufficiently specified to be tested. The DCWG is the steward of the data class through cycles of testing and revision.

• **Data Class Biography:** The provenance of each data object and class as it moves through the USCDI process resulting from testing.

• **Net Value:** Total attributed stakeholder value minus stakeholder cost where the scale can be any type of cost or value (time, money, safety, quality, burden, etc.).

• **USCDI Process:** A data class maturation process with the goal to identify data classes with broad applicability to advance interoperability.
Introduction to Recommendations

- The Task Force recommendations seek to leverage the USCDI process to address the common causes that prevent data from being shared.

1) Data doesn’t exist

2) Data exists but is not collected at all or in part

3) Data is collected but there are no semantic standards for normalizing it

4) Data is collected and there are appropriate semantic standards, but they are not being broadly applied

5) Data is collected and semantic standards are applied; however, inconsistent application of semantic and other standards (e.g., use of local or custom codes) by organizations inhibits interoperability.

6) Detailed and reliable workflows to share the data outside of the originating organization have not been established.
Summary of Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** Establish a six stage maturation process through which data classes would be promoted, each with objective characteristics for promotion.

- **Recommendation 2:** Expand the USCDI as each data class completes Stages 1-4 without a predetermined timeline.

- **Recommendation 3:** Establish an annual publishing cycle for the USCDI with periodic bulletins as data items/data classes progress from one stage to the next.

- **Recommendation 4:** Incorporate public feedback in each stage.
Recommendation 1: Stages for the USCDI Process

• Stage 1: Proposed (new)
• Stage 2: In Preparation (new)
• Stage 3: Emerging
• Stage 4: Candidate
• Stage 5: USCDI
• Stage 6: Widespread Deployment (new)
Stage 1: Proposed

• **Purpose of Stage 1:**
  Identify data classes and objects of value to any stakeholder

• **How to get in:**
  Stakeholder proposes data objects and use cases in shared public resource

• **What happens in Stage 1:**
  » Stakeholder submissions are sorted
  » Data objects are aggregated by use and value to many stakeholders to begin the process of creating a data class
  » Estimate net value and priority level to stakeholders, especially government and patients

• **How to get out:**
  » Demonstrate high net value to multiple stakeholders
  » Receive “high” priority rating
Stage 1: Proposed

- **Issues to clarify by testing**
  - Does this process work?
    - Does it encourage submission by non-traditional stakeholders
    - Does it help identify communities of interest
  - The cost and resources required to stand-up a public resource
  - The ease with which stakeholder communities can be identified
  - A process to identify and specify “value”
Stage 2: In Preparation

- **Purpose of Stage 2:**
  Develop tightly defined data class supported by value to multiple stakeholders

- **How to get in:**
  - Demonstrate high net value to multiple stakeholders
  - Receive “high” priority rating

- **What happens in Stage 2:**
  - Develop the Data Class:
    - Identify the data objects that make up the data class
    - Identity and reuse when possible previously specified data objects
    - Harmonization of similar data objects
    - Define the scope of the data class
    - Identify Applicable Standards
    - Identify relevant use cases
Stage 2: In Preparation

- **How to get out:**
  - Data Class and Use Cases sufficiently specified for pilot testing
  - Two versions of the Data Class are possible
    - One specified to be computable
    - One specified to be sent as minimally structured data sufficient to identify content, patient and receiver

- **Issues to clarify by testing:**
  - The time and resources required to stand-up a DCWG
  - Whether this is a process that can work at scale
  - The degree to which stakeholder communities volunteer to participate
  - Whether a volunteer DCWG can perform the work assigned to it
  - Should Stage 3 be where standards are identified and applied
  - Whether the criteria for moving to Stage 3 are reasonable or whether they create too great a barrier to advancement
Stage 3: Emerging

• **Purpose of stage:**
  Test the Data Class in pilot settings, revise and retest

• **How to get in:**
  Clearly defined Data Class and Use Cases with applicable standards

• **What happens in Stage 3:**
  » Testing in Dev Days or Connectathon-type events
  » Further refinement and specification of data class based on testing in pilot sites
  » Resolve gaps in applicable standards and identify barriers to data collection

• **How to get out:**
  » Achieve sufficient technical specificity for testing in production settings
Stage 3: Emerging

• **Issues to clarify by testing:**
  » The cost and resources required for pilot testing
  » Whether a DCWG can perform the work assigned to it in this stage
  » Is the level of testing too little or too much
  » Whether the criteria for moving to Stage 4 are reasonable or whether they create too great a barrier to advancement.
Stage 4: Candidate

- **Purpose of stage:**
  Test data class in production and prepare for deployment at scale

- **How to get in:**
  Achieve sufficient technical specificity for testing in production settings

- **What happens in Stage 4:**
  - Testing and modification to resolve barriers to nationwide implementation
  - In use in at least one commercial system

- **How to get out:**
  - Demonstrate that data class is ready to be deployed at scale
Stage 4: Candidate

• Issues to clarify by testing
  » The cost and resources required for pilot testing
  » Whether a DCWG can perform the work assigned to it in this stage
  » Is the level of testing too little or too much
  » Whether the criteria for moving to Stage 4 are reasonable or whether they create too great a barrier to advancement.
Stage 5: USCDI

- **Purpose of stage:**
  Flag the data class as a priority for nationwide deployment and use available resources to drive adoption

- **How to get in:**
  Demonstrate that data class is ready to be deployed at scale

- **What happens in Stage 5:**
  - Policy levers used to promote widespread adoption
  - QHINs and their participants required to update their technology to support new USCDI data class

- **Widespread adoption = “Stage 6”**
Recommendation 2: USCDI Expansion

**Specific Charge:** How the USCDI would be expanded and by how much.

**Task Force Recommendations:**

- Establish process for any stakeholder to propose data items or data classes without restrictions
- Add data classes to the USCDI after successful progression through Stages 1-4
  - Regardless of timeline with no limit on number of data classes added
- Establish process to review progress of data classes through Stage 5, including a timeline for advancement
  - Progress through Stage 5 may be impacted by vendor and stakeholder capacity and business cases
- Data class advances to Stage 6 when RCE determines adoption is widespread (exceeds 50%)
Recommendation 3: USCDI Frequency of Publication

**Specific Charge:** Any factors associated with the frequency with which it would be published.

**Task Force Recommendations:**

- Publish USCDI annually: “Reference Edition”
  - At end of the calendar year
  - Reference changes made over the year
  - Summary statistics for the USCDI
- Ideally, USCDI is a sortable, interactive tool with relevant resource links (e.g., standards bodies, ISA, etc.)
- Minimally available as downloadable version
- Quarterly bulletins to highlight important new information and share changes made to the USCDI
Recommendation 3: USCDI Frequency of Publication

- Publications should include the following:
  - Stage 2: DCWG currently active
  - Stage 3: Data classes in pilot with summary of technical issues resolved and outstanding
  - Stage 4: Data classes in production testing with technical issues resolved/outstanding, scope and requirements for beta implementation (or reference to where to find implementation materials)
  - Stage 5: USCDI: Scope and requirements for production implementation (or reference to where to find implementation materials)
  - Stage 6: Measurements on adoption levels and usage
**Recommendation 4: Process for Stakeholder Feedback**

**Specific Charge:** Mechanisms/approaches to receive stakeholder feedback regarding data class priorities

**Task Force Recommendations:**

- Two-month public comment period following publication of USCDI Reference Edition
- Provide an open, public platform to promote collaboration & information sharing in Stage 1
- Report Stage 2 progress in the public resource under each data class and solicit public comment
- Report progress in Stages 3 and 4 under each data class in the public resource and solicit public comment.
Additional Recommendations

- **Recommendation 5**: Test USCDI Process by Addressing Critical TEFCA Requirements
- **Recommendation 6**: Ensure that the Voice of the Patient is Represented and Heard
- **Recommendation 7**: Support the Process of Data Item Harmonization as a Condition for Data Class Advancement
- **Recommendation 8**: Data Class Management
- **Recommendation 9**: Governance Structure for USCDI
Test USCDI Process by Addressing Critical TEFCA Requirements

- Create and advance two data classes for the TEFCA:
  - Items to improve data matching/unique patient identifier
  - Patient authorizations for permitted uses
- Develop use cases for the 6 permitted uses in TEFCA for testing.
- Measure the effectiveness of the RCE in promoting the voice of the individual
- Review current data classes in the Draft USCDI against the criteria proposed in the TF recommendations

*There was consensus on the need for testing the USCDI process. While alignment with TEFCA was discussed, this specific example was not discussed.*
Recommendation 6: Voice of the Patient

**Ensure the Voice of the Patient is Heard**

- Establish a process that engages patient representatives in data class creation
- Ensure the patient voice is adequately represented in each stage of the process
  - RCE will assume some of this responsibility by adding patient representatives to their governance structure
  - Specifically designated representatives may be required for the DCWGs
- This is no longer a “nice to have” but rather a “must have” as we shift into patient-centric, value-based healthcare delivery
Recommendation 7: Data Class Harmonization

Support the Process of Data Item Harmonization as a Condition for Data Class Advancement

- Support data item harmonization with sufficient resources to enable harmonization to occur at each stage.
- ONC oversight and support for harmonization of each data class is essential
- Examples:
  - If NQF has interest in a quality measure that from inception to mandate takes 3 years, and in that effort e-measures and corresponding data needs are identified, those identified should enter the USCDI process at that time and not at the end of the process. In this way e-measures will be more achievable and less burdensome.
  - CMS and the Data Element Library (DEL).
Data Class Management

- The Task Force identified, but did not make specific recommendations for the following areas:
  - A process to modify established USCDI data classes
  - A process to remove or retire data classes
  - A process to create and rapidly advance data classes in response to a public emergency
Recommendation 9: Governance

**Governance Structure for USCDI**

- ONC acts as the steward for the USCDI
  - Progress data classes in a timely manner through the USCDI process
  - Facilitate and oversee DCWG and additional work groups when appropriate
  - Identify stakeholders and educate them on effectively engaging in the USCDI process
  - Collaborate with RCE to measure data classes:
    - Potential net value
    - Technical readiness
    - Adoption level