USCDI Task Force 2021

PHASE 2 – Recommendations on the USCDI Expansion Process

Steven Lane, Co-Chair
Leslie Kelly Hall, Co-Chair

June 9, 2021
Task Force Recommendations and Report

• Membership
• Charges
• Background
• Phase 2 Recommendations
• Phase 3 Work Plan
# Task Force Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Kelly Hall (Co-Chair)</td>
<td>Engaging Patient Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Lane (Co-Chair)</td>
<td>Sutter Health</td>
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<td>Ricky Bloomfield</td>
<td>Apple</td>
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<td>Hans Buitendijk</td>
<td>Cerner</td>
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<td>Grace Cordovano</td>
<td>Enlightening Results</td>
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<td>Jim Jirjis</td>
<td>HCA Healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Kawamoto</td>
<td>University of Utah Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Kilbourne</td>
<td>VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leslie Lenert</td>
<td>Medical University of South Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clement McDonald</td>
<td>National Library of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Miri</td>
<td>The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School and UT Health Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Oliver</td>
<td>Baptist Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Savage</td>
<td>Savage Consulting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Schreiber</td>
<td>CMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abby Sears</td>
<td>OCHIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sasha TerMaat</td>
<td>Epic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Truscott</td>
<td>Accenture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheryl Turney</td>
<td>Anthem, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Vreeman</td>
<td>RTI International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Webb</td>
<td>Indiana Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center</td>
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Task Force Charge

Overarching charge:

Review and provide recommendations on the Draft USCDI Version 2 content and process

Specific charges:

1. Evaluate Draft USCDI v2 and provide HITAC with recommendations for:
   - 1a - Data classes and elements from USCDI v1 including applicable standards version updates
   - 1b - New data classes and elements from Draft USCDI v2 including applicable standards
   - 1c - Level 2 data classes and elements not included in Draft USCDI v2

   Due: April 15, 2021

2. Evaluate the USCDI expansion process and provide HITAC with recommendations for:
   - 2a - ONDEC submission system improvements
   - 2b - Evaluation criteria and process used to assign levels to submitted data classes and elements
   - 2c - Prioritization process used by ONC to select new data classes and elements for Draft USCDI v2

   Due: September 9, 2021

3. Recommend ONC priorities for USCDI version 3 submission cycle

   Due: September 9, 2021
**USCDI Version Update Process**

- **2020**
  - Submission & Review Period - v2
  - USCDI v1 Final

- **2021**
  - Submission & Review Period – v3
  - USCDI v2 Draft
  - USCDI v2 Final
  - Considered for 2021 SVAP

- **2022**
  - Submission & Review Period – v4
  - USCDI v3 Draft
  - USCDI v3 Final
  - Considered for 2022 SVAP
Draft USCDI v2

Key: ★ New Data Class or Element
+ Data Element reclassified
Review of Task 1 Recommendations -
Draft USCDI v2 Changes & Additions
Review of Task 1 Recommendations

• Add selected data classes and elements to v2
  • Social Determinants of Health
  • Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity
  • Care Team Members
  • Encounter Information

• Clarify definitions and scope of data elements
  • Assessment and Plan of Treatment
  • Diagnostic Imaging
  • Diagnostic Studies

• Remove Laboratory, Pathology and Diagnostic Imaging Narrative data elements

• Coordinate with HL7 to update implementation guides
Task 2a Recommendations -

ONDEC Submission System Improvements
ONDEC Submission Process

USCDI ONDEC supports ONC’s intent to develop new versions of the USCDI through a predictable, transparent, and collaborative process, allowing health IT stakeholders to submit new data elements and classes. Review the USCDI ONDEC Fact Sheet to learn more.

**How It Works**

**Step 1. Submit new data elements and classes**
- **Review Prep Sheet** See questions and prepare content for your submission - updated to include more information on ONC’s evaluation of submissions
- **Start My Submission** Registered ISA users only - login or create account here

**Step 2. ONC evaluates and assigns a level to each data element depending on the overall value, maturity and challenges to implementation**
- Comment • Level 1 • Level 2

**Step 3. ONC posts submitted data elements on the USCDI page by level**
- Submitters will have an opportunity to add or change information which could change its level determination.
- Other stakeholders can review these submissions and contribute to their development through comments and collaboration with original submitters.

**Step 4. Submissions achieving Level 2 by October of each year will be considered for inclusion in the draft of the next version of USCDI. ONC will present the draft to the Health IT Advisory Committee and the public for comment.**

**Step 5. ONC finalizes the next version of USCDI in July.**
# USCDI ONDEC Submission Form Prep Sheet

This resource provides all of the USCDI ONDEC submission form questions and allows stakeholders to gather necessary information in advance of submission. You may choose to copy/paste your information from this document directly into the USCDI ONDEC submission form.

Please visit [www.healthIT.gov/ONDEC](http://www.healthIT.gov/ONDEC) to submit information through the USCDI ONDEC system.

## Submitter Details

**Name of Submitter***:

Submitter can submit on behalf of another if desired. Name will be published with submission.

**Email Address of Submitter***:

(auto-populated from [Interoperability Standards Advisory](https://www.healthIT.gov/Interoperability-standards-advisory) user account, but can be edited)

Email will **not** be published with submission but will be available to ONC for evaluation

**Secondary Email Address**:

**Organization of Submitter**:

Organization will be published with submission.
**Data Element**

**Data Class Name:** (or select an existing USCDI Data Class):*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element Name:*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Element Description:*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is used to further define the meaning of the data element, not the use case or other criteria. If there are related data elements, describe how this element is unique.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Are there similar or related data elements in USCDI?** *(select one)*

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Unknown

**If yes, why should this data element be considered separately?**

If similar to other data elements, provide sufficient justification to add another data element rather than keeping an existing data element.
Task 2a Recommendations - ONDEC Submission System Improvements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 01

Use plain language (https://www.plainlanguage.gov) throughout ONDEC system
Task 2a Recommendations - ONDEC Submission System Improvements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 02

Add “Unknown” as optional answer to all Yes/No questions in the ONDEC submission form and prep sheet

- Specifically, the question: “Has this data element been electronically exchanged with external organizations or individuals (including patients)?”
Task 2a Recommendations - ONDEC Submission System Improvements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 03

Provide options for submitters to request assistance via chat, email and/or interview with ONC for completion of submission
USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 04

Develop primer and/or additions to the ONC HIT Playbook to encourage and support engagement in the USCDI process by stakeholders that do not traditionally participate in the (e.g., patients and their care partners)
Task 2a Recommendations - ONDEC Submission System Improvements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 05

Consider removing registration requirements (through the Interoperability Standards Advisory process) for submissions or comments in ONDEC
Task 2a Recommendations - ONDEC Submission System Improvements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 06

Provide tools to promote diverse public engagement or crowdsourcing in the ONDEC submission process

- Share via social media app buttons on main page and data class or element pages
- A Comment button at the top of each page that navigates user to the appropriate Comment field currently found at the bottom of the page
- Like/Dislike buttons - User registration would be required to post these
Task 2a Recommendations - ONDEC Submission System Improvements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 07

Add submitter stakeholder group drop down list (e.g., patient, care partner/patient advocate, provider, SDO, HIT developer, government, professional group) to submission demographics section
Task 2a Recommendations - ONDEC Submission System Improvements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 08

Offer special educational materials such as a glossary of terms
Task 2a Recommendations - ONDEC Submission System Improvements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 09

Allow for a submitter to more easily see if the same or similar elements have already been submitted

- This would give the submitter the opportunity to provide comments on an existing data class/element rather than create a duplicative or competing submission.
- This could be accomplished via an “all submissions/level view” or improved search function including smart/autofill data element name
Task 2a Recommendations - ONDEC Submission System Improvements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 10

Allow for the submission of user stories in lieu of strict use cases and for specifically describing the benefit(s) of a proposed data class/element and/or harms related to lack of interoperability of the suggested data classes/elements
Explicitly state that documented “challenges” related to a submitted data class or element are not used to determine its level, but may be used for prioritization for inclusion in future versions
Task 2b Recommendations –

Evaluation criteria and process used to assign levels to submitted data classes and elements
## USCDI Version 2 Submission Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>COMMENT LEVEL</th>
<th>LEVEL 1</th>
<th>LEVEL 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maturity-Current Standards</strong></td>
<td>May be represented by terminology standard or element of Standards Development Organization (SDO) balloted technical specification</td>
<td>Must be represented using terminology standard or element of SDO-balloted technical specification</td>
<td>Must be represented using terminology standard or element of SDO-balloted technical specification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maturity-Current Use</strong></td>
<td>Limited test environments, or pilots</td>
<td>Limited production environments, 1 or 2 different systems</td>
<td>At scale in production environments more than 2 different systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maturity-Current Exchange</strong></td>
<td>Limited exchange with external organizations, on same or different EHR/HIT systems</td>
<td>Exchanged between 2 or 3 organizations with different EHR/HIT systems</td>
<td>Exchanged between 4 or more organizations with different EHR/HIT systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use Cases- # Stakeholders Impacted</strong></td>
<td>Used by few stakeholders, or for narrowly defined conditions or events.</td>
<td>Pertinent to many, but not most patients, providers or events requiring its use</td>
<td><strong>Pertains to majority of patients, providers or events requiring its use</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Task 2b Recommendations -
Evaluation criteria and process used to assign levels to submitted data classes and elements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 12

ONC should support minority use cases. When considering minority use cases, evaluation should include identification of where the use case can be supported by existing/compatible mature data elements/classes and provide direction to stakeholders to support implementation and use

- E.g., specifying what note types should be used for exchanging Coroners Reports or Organ transplant harvest reports in the absence of dedicated USCDI note types for these purposes
Task 2b Recommendations -
Evaluation criteria and process used to assign levels to submitted data classes and elements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 13

Use Case Impact: When determining the level for an item, ONC should consider the item’s impact on care and other national priority use cases. For example, data elements of particularly high impact that pertain to a narrower stakeholder group may be advanced from Level 1 or 2.
Task 2b Recommendations -
Evaluation criteria and process used to assign levels to submitted data classes and elements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 14

Periodic Review: ONC should review all items submitted to ONDEC annually, or preferably semi-annually, to validate current level and priority based on the latest information regarding maturity, need, submitted comments, and current criteria.
USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2 Recommendation 14 – Periodic Review

• Periodic review of ONDEC should identify opportunities for advancement of data classes/elements between levels.

• The date and result of these reviews should be included on the website, and ONC should report to HITAC on review.

• Periodic review should also identify high priority data classes/elements and provide guidance about the needed development/submission.

• Recommend that ONC use the USCDI TF as a sounding board for questions or items that do not fall neatly into a particular category.
Task 2b Recommendations -
Evaluation criteria and process used to assign levels to submitted data classes and elements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 15

Create a dashboard view for USCDI. Items to be included in dashboard could include:

- # of submissions within each level
- Date of / time since last review
- # of Prioritized items within each level
- # of submissions at each level by stakeholder categories
Task 2b Recommendations -
Evaluation criteria and process used to assign levels
to submitted data classes and elements

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 16

For submissions, include the level assigned for each individual evaluation criterion, as well as the level for the submission overall, and include prioritization criteria applied to all levels, not just Level 2

- This granular transparency of the leveling process would help submitters and commenters to provide more specific responses and help to ONC and the public.
Task 2c Recommendations –

Prioritization process used by ONC to select new data classes and elements for Draft USCDI v2
ONC Prioritization Criteria – USCDI v2

• Level 2 data elements

• Significant gaps in USCDI v1 concepts

• Supported by existing ONC Certification

• Modest technical standards development

• Modest aggregate lift for vendor development and implementation, esp. during pandemic
Task 2c Recommendations -
Prioritization process used by ONC to select new data classes and elements for Draft USCDI v2

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 17

ONC should independently assess Technical Maturity and Priority criteria. Priority should include:

- mitigating health and healthcare inequity/disparities
- responding to the needs of underserved stakeholders
- addressing public health and other priority use cases identified by ONC
Task 2c Recommendations -
Prioritization process used by ONC to select new
data classes and elements for Draft USCDI v2

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 18

Items within each level that are identified as high priority but of insufficient technical maturity for advancement to a higher level or inclusion in USCDI should be clearly identified, communicated to the standards community for expedited work, and to stakeholders to encourage pilot use and iterative deployment.
Task 2c Recommendations - Prioritization process used by ONC to select new data classes and elements for Draft USCDI v2

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 19

Advancement into a final published version of USCDI should continue to require a minimum degree of technical maturity/readiness. In particular, published implementation guides are highly desirable to support scalable national deployment of a data element/class and should be available for new data classes/elements included in a published version of USCDI.
Task 2c Recommendations -
Prioritization process used by ONC to select new
data classes and elements for Draft USCDI v2

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 20

Indicate which Level 2 classes/elements are of high priority
but insufficient maturity to be included in the next published
version of USCDI. This could encourage industry to
strengthen efforts to improve on their maturity.
USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 20

• High priority items with insufficient maturity for advancement should be clearly identified encouraging the community to prioritize and resource efforts to support these data classes/elements.

• The need to focus on high priority items must be communicated as early as possible. Inclusion in Level 2 enables early signal and focus.

• While high priority data items that are not sufficiently mature could be included in a draft USCDI published for public comment, this would provide limited time for industry to finalize any necessary standards and/or implementation guides to raise the maturity level. This should only be done when ONC believes the necessary maturity level is imminent, and its inclusion is contingent on the maturity is achieved before finalization of the next version.
Task 2c Recommendations -
Prioritization process used by ONC to select new data classes and elements for Draft USCDI v2

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 21

Clarify that the applicability of USCDI extends beyond ONC certification and federal programs, and inclusion in USCDI does not depend upon being required within ONC certification and/or other federal programs.
Task 2c Recommendations -
Prioritization process used by ONC to select new data classes and elements for Draft USCDI v2

USCDI-TF-2021-Phase 2_Recommendation 22

Continue to identify and prioritize for inclusion in USCDI data elements that are already routinely captured or automatically generated within HIT systems.
USCDI Task Force Task 3 Workplan
Task 3 - Recommend ONC priorities for USCDI version 3 submission cycle

- The TF is looking at areas of priority that ONC should focus on to include relevant data elements to USCDI v3 and beyond.
  - To promote necessary development work to reach greater maturity and readiness
  - To signal industry these areas warrant further work
  - Identified areas for study:
    - SDOH
    - Equity and inclusion
    - ISPTF recommendations
    - Public Health / PHDS TF recs
Phase 3 Scheduled Meetings

• June 15, 2021

• June 22, 2021
Questions?