Carmen Smiley, IT Specialist
Standards Division, Office of Technology
Project Background

• ONC received public comments on the use of USPS Publication 28 in response to an RFI on patient matching in the 21st Century Cures Act proposed rule

• Our analysis of Pub 28 led us to conclude that it is insufficient for this purpose

• Limited, but promising public research on effects of data element standardization on patient matching accuracy

• These and other efforts indicate the potential for improved patient matching through the development and implementation of standards
Project US@

• Phase I (2021)
  • Version 1.0 of Technical Specification and AHIMA Companion Guide
    • U.S. domestic and military addresses – released January 7, 2022

• Phase II (2022)
  • Version 2.0 of Technical Specification and AHIMA Companion Guide
    • Geolocation data
    • Tribal addresses
      ➢ Provider addresses
      ➢ Project US@ API Pilot
How is Project US@ different from Pub 28?

- USPS Publication 28 as a foundation, maintaining alignment as much as possible throughout, with many additional constraints and the addition of metadata
  - Many health IT software developers use USPS standards to improve patient address standardization for improved mailability as well as other purposes
  - Project US@ aims to meet health systems who already use these standards where they are by requiring only minor changes and refinements to what they already do, directing their focus on improved patient matching

- Guidance is designed to support accurate patient matching while maintaining mailability as much as possible

- Greatest impact can be realized by using both the Technical Specification and the Companion Guide
The optimal solution to accurately matching patient records is a combination of technology, processes, and people.

- Uniformity of Practice
  - Uniformity of practice in the real-world application of the Project US@ specification can further optimize patient matching

- Project US@ Companion Guide
  - Guidance and best practices
  - Accurate and timely capture and management of patient addresses that support conformance to Project US@ and improve patient matching
Patient Infographic

How Does It Work?
Project US@ aims to provide guidance to software developers who design and maintain health IT systems and to health care staff who record and verify your address and other information to assist them with accurately matching you to your correct health record.

Over the Phone
My address?
Five Thirteen Seventh Ave.
Apt 3-A.

Avenue?
I'm only seeing Seventh Street.

Oof!
You're right,
my mom lives on an avenue, my address
is Five Thirteen Seventh Street.
Thanks!

At the Point of Care
I see a conflict.
It looks like the
address in our system
and the one on your ID
do not match.
Is that intentional?

On no,
that's not
on purpose.
I forgot, that's
my old apartment,
Can you update it?

Online Scheduling or Telehealth
Please verify your address for this telehealth visit.
To ensure delivery accuracy, we suggest the change selected
below. Please choose which address you would like to use.

- Suggested address
  300 C STREET SW
  200 C street Southwest
  Washington, District of Columbia 20024

- Entered address
  300 C street SW
  200 C street Southwest
  Washington, District of Columbia 20024

Full Address  Save Address
API Pilot

Does the address exist in USPS databases?

YES  If address is found, record is validated for mailability and standardized to Project US@

NO   If address is not found, record is standardized to Project US@

Unstandardized address data

Standardized address data

Address data and key

Pilot participant 1  Participant 2  Participant 3  Participant 4  Participant 5

Output comparison across all participants
Known Limitations

• Addresses only
  • Names, dates of birth, or other demographic data elements will not be included in the pilot
    • These and other elements often have a strong, variable effect on matching

• Standardization will not solve all matching issues, but it’s a great start!

• Measured effect of pilot will…
  • Be relevant to patient matching within an organization but not between organizations
  • Likely be small (but significant)
  • Not exactly comparable across results from pilot participants
    • Even if participants are all using probabilistic methods, every developer uses slightly different approaches and methods to meet this need
Project US@ API
Patient Address, page 5

• We believe this specification can serve as the standard for patient address in health care settings

• We seek feedback on whether this specification should be the required standard for Current and Previous Address in USCDI v3 or a future USCDI version

• Draft USCDI v3 has been made available to the public for feedback via the USCDI website or on individual data class or data element pages through April 30, 2022
Contact ONC

Carmen Smiley, IT Specialist
Standards Division, Office of Technology
carmen.smiley@hhs.gov

Phone: 202-690-7151

Health IT Feedback Form: https://www.healthit.gov/form/
healthit-feedback-form

Twitter: @onc_healthIT

LinkedIn: Search “Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology”

Subscribe to our weekly eblast at healthit.gov for the latest updates!