

HIT Standards Committee Vocabulary Task Force

Task Force Report and Recommendation

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Recommendation 1 of 2010 vs. Current NLM Value Set Plans

A single federal office or agency should be responsible for ensuring the creation, maintenance, dissemination and accessibility of all vocabulary value sets and subsets related to Meaningful Use. This entity should coordinate with other federal agencies, SDOs, and relevant stakeholders to:

NLM Value Set Authority Center

- Identify what sets are needed and who will produce and maintain each set • CMS,ONC ✓
- Determine the appropriate dissemination schedule and update frequency for each set • CMS,ONC ✓
- Establish standard formats for production and dissemination of sets • ✓
- Manage processes for review, testing, approval and publication of sets • ✓
- Ensure the existence of robust, authoritative infrastructure for sets (see Recommendation 2) • ✓
- Recommend related education, communications and outreach • ✓
- This entity should ensure federal funding as needed to establish these activities, to support them over time, and to make vocabularies, value sets, and any subsets required for meaningful use available for US-wide use at no cost • CMS,ONC ✓

Recommendation 2 of 2010 vs. Current NLM Value Set Plans

Establish authoritative infrastructure for development, maintenance and dissemination of standard value sets and subsets related to Meaningful Use with one-stop shopping for Meaningful Use vocabularies:

NLM Value Set Authority Center

- Establish a central repository, central download capability, and central feedback loop mechanism in the federal government for dissemination of Meaningful Use vocabularies** **• ✓**
- Enable decentralized private or public sector alternative repositories for dissemination that may include alternative distribution mechanisms and schedules, using federally standardized exchange formats** **• TBD (APIs will exist)**
- Differentiate tight control over specific value sets required for Meaningful Use, versus loose control to enable sharing other subsets that may be made available for the convenience of EHR implementers and users** **• ✓**
- Establish open, public, consensus-based processes to standardize parameters for public and private sector tooling that can make vocabularies searchable and discoverable by EHR end users** **• TBD (APIs will exist)**

New Recommendation

Recommended HITSC Guidance To Measure Developers For The Use Of Vocabulary Standards:

- **Developers of eMeasures should rely on existing medical record documentation and coding in the standards instead of requiring new or different documentation and coding, except where a policy process determines a need to use measures as a deliberate forcing function to induce new behaviors.**
- **Developers of eMeasures should first use existing standard vocabulary concepts the use of which has been demonstrated in certified electronic health record systems.**
- **NLM as part of the Value Set Authority Center should provide to eMeasure developers data from cooperating EHR systems on the frequency of use of vocabulary concepts, in convenience subsets of standard vocabularies, or reference sets, for specific purposes such as primary care.**
- **NLM should support and promote consulting assistance from terminology experts so that eMeasure developers may better use resources provided by the Value Set Authority Center.**

Convergent Medical Terminology in SNOMED CT

- **What it is:** Open source donation from Kaiser Permanente, scheduled by clinical domain from February 2011. Content is reviewed by IHTSDO and NLM for applicability and for adherence to editorial guidelines – some is accepted by IHTSDO into SNOMED CT international release; some is accepted by NLM into US Extension of SNOMED CT; some stays in KP namespace. Excel spreadsheets and IHTSDO Release Format 1 problem list subsets include concepts used by over 20,000 clinicians with: concept fully specified names; descriptions that are used as clinician preferred display names; patient preferred display names; cross-maps to ICD-9, ICD-10, Laboratory LOINC and medication terminologies as applicable; multiple identifiers and parent concepts as applicable.
- **Clinical domain coverage and schedule for content review**
 - **CMT files downloadable now:** Over 18,250 concepts including Top 2500 problems; also Cardiovascular; Mental Health; Neurology; Musculoskeletal; Ophthalmology; Oncology; Hematology; Endocrinology; Urology; Nephrology
 - **July – September 2012:** Common lab procedures; Common lab results; Ear, Nose, Throat, Infectious Diseases, and GI
 - **October 2012 – May 2013:** Skin; Respiratory; Orthopedics; Non-fracture Injuries
 - **Now in process** as a high priority, date not finalized: Primary Care including Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Pediatrics, OB and Gyn