



Health Information Technology Advisory Committee

Adopted Standards Task Force 2022 Virtual Meeting

Meeting Notes | August 2, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

Executive Summary

The focus of the Adopted Standards Task Force 2022 (AS TF) meeting was to finalize the ONC's SHA-1, Syndromic Surveillance, and Group 7 Standards. There were no public comments submitted verbally, but there was a discussion held via the chat feature in Zoom Webinar.

Agenda

10:30 a.m.	Call to Order/Roll Call
10:35 a.m.	ONC Standards Review – Finalize SHA-1, Syndromic Surveillance, and Group 7
11:50 a.m.	Public Comment
11:55 a.m.	Next Steps
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Call to Order

Mike Berry, Director, Designated Federal Officer, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. and welcomed members and the public to the meeting of the AS TF 2022.

Roll Call

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve (Ike) Eichner, Texas Department of State Health Services, Co-Chair

John Kilbourne, Department of Veterans Health Affairs (VA)

Hung S. Luu, Children's Health

Clem McDonald, National Library of Medicine

Deven McGraw, Invitae

Vassil Peytchev, Epic

Alexis Snyder, Individual

Fillipe Southerland, Yardi Systems, Inc.

Raymonde Uy, National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

Debi Willis, PatientLink Enterprises, Inc.

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Hans Buitendijk, Oracle Cerner, Co-Chair

Jeff Danford, Altera Digital Health

Rajesh Godavarthi, MCG Health, part of the Hearst Health network

Jim Jirjis, HCA Healthcare

Eliel Oliveira, Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin

Samantha Pitts, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine



Ram Sriram, National Institute of Standards and Technology

ONC STAFF

Mike Berry, Designated Federal Officer
Wendy Noboa, Subcommittee Lead
Liz Turi, Task Force Co-Lead
Scott Bohon, Task Force Co-Lead

Key Specific Points of Discussion

TOPIC: CALL TO ORDER AND CO-CHAIR REMARKS

Steve Eichner, AS TF 2022 co-chair, welcomed everyone and noted that Hans Buitendijk, TF co-chair, would not be in attendance. He announced that ONC planned to host an [Electronic Health Information \(EHI\) Sharing Workshop](#) on Thursday, August 4, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Also, [ONC officially released the United States Core Data for Interoperability Version 3 \(USCDI v3\)](#) in July.

Then, he discussed the standards the TF was scheduled to review and explained that TF has a goal of completing its work by the end of August 2022, after which it will submit a report to the HITAC for its consideration and transmittal to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT.

TOPIC: ONC STANDARDS REVIEW – FINALIZE SHA-1, SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE, AND GROUP 7

Steve briefly shared the AS TF 2022 charge and related 21st Century Cures Act (the Cures Act) Requirement that the charge fulfills. These included:

- Beginning 5 years after the date of enactment [December 13, 2016] of the 21st Century Cures Act and every 3 years thereafter, the National Coordinator shall convene stakeholders to review the existing set of adopted standards and implementation specifications and make recommendations with respect to whether to-
 - (A) maintain the use of such standards and implementation specifications; or
 - (B) phase out such standards and implementation specifications.

[Reference: 42 U.S. Code § 300jj–13 - Setting priorities for standards adoption](#)

- Charge: Review the existing set of ONC adopted standards and implementation specifications and make recommendations to maintain or phase out such standards and implementation specifications, as required by 42 U.S. Code § 300jj–13 (Setting Priorities for Standards Adoption). The current set of ONC adopted standards and implementation specifications are maintained on the [ONC Standards Hub](#).
- This charge does not seek recommendations for new standards and implementation specifications for ONC to adopt through rulemaking.

Steve updated AS TF members on new information regarding the Secure Hash Standard, 180-4 standard. He reviewed each of the standards on the TF's meeting itinerary and invited members to provide feedback and/or comments.

DISCUSSION:

- TF members discussed the Secure Hash Standard, 180-4 (August 2015).
 - Steve commented that SHA-1 is depreciated in the language of the regulation, and the TF should not expect that that is going to continue in future regulation. The surrounding regulation is currently open for public comment, so he suggested that the TF draft a



potential recommendation to ensure that SHA-1 is depreciated and to replace it with the new standard after the public comment period.

- TF members agreed with Steve's suggestion, and he offered to draft language for the recommendation that would be presented for review at the next TF meeting.
- Steve invited TF members to continue their discussion about the updated version of the original standard, PHIN Messaging Guide for Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department, Urgent, Care, Inpatient and Ambulatory Care, and Inpatient Settings, Release 2.0, April 21, 2015. The latest published standard is HL7 Version 2.5.1 Implementation Guide: Syndromic Surveillance, Release 1 - US Realm 2019-07-26.
 - TF members did not know if there were potential replacement standards, so this item was tabled and will be revisited at a future meeting.
- Steve reviewed TF member comments on the standard CDC Race and Ethnicity Code Set Version 1.0 (March 2000). He stated that there is nothing published in the ONC Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP), though a great deal of work has been done in recent years to modernize and expand the code set to account for Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). He invited TF members to share feedback.
 - Raymonde and Fil commented that the USCDI v3 references the CDC Race and Ethnicity code version 1.2, dated July 2021, but they commented that it is difficult to find the correct links to determine the differences between 1.0 and 1.2. Alexis commented that the version from 2000 is likely very outdated and requested a link to version 1.2.
 - Raymonde shared perspectives and recent work by Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) on this topic, including the UDS Modernization Initiative and UDS Patient Level Submission (UDS+), and agreed with Alexis' comments. He discussed differences in how race and ethnicity are defined and reported between different federal partners, states, and regional regulations.
 - Vassil commented that there are issues of alignment with US Core (between value sets) and there is no US Core implementation guide (IG) to be used, causing a potential gap.
 - Steve highlighted potential concerns around differences in systems that exchange information and who is responsible for mapping and determining the hierarchy of use when there are different standards in use; he described how some geographic areas of the United States have deeper differentiation between language, race, and ethnicity than in other regions. Raymonde commented that the TF's recommendation must be aligned with regulations, and Deven added that this underscores the need for the TF to make definitive recommendations to the HITAC when standards need to be retired. Alex expressed concern over the use of different value sets across communities and added that presupposing "who" lives in particular places can lead to patients/populations being missed or misidentified.
 - Clem commented that race is a social/political definition, lacking strong biological connections. He and Steve discussed how updates to the standard would be used across the ecosystem and who would bear the burden of potential changes. Steve explained that some states (Oregon, Washington) are required more detailed reporting on race and ethnicity. Clem commented that this information comes from a producer and the consumer/patient does not have control over it; Alexis responded that this is the reason advisory groups like the HITAC are important in representing patients. She emphasized that the consumer/patient should feel comfortable with the choices offered and not just have to choose the "Other" category when giving a representation of themselves.
 - Hung agreed with the importance of harmonization between standards but commented that making recommendations on how standards should be used or harmonized is out of scope for the AS TF.
 - TF members discussed the newer version of the CDC standard and the challenges around having multiple standards in use. They agreed to draft a potential recommendation that the standard from the year 2000 is old and should be replaced with a more modern,



harmonized standard (Version 1.2) for other uses across domains; ONC should ensure alignment between the most current version of the USCDI (now: Version 3) and other standards in use in regulation. Vassil commented that the TF should point out the discrepancy with US Core (which does not support all categories in Version 1.2).

- Steve reviewed TF member comments on the standard HL7® Version 3 Standard, Value Sets for AdministrativeGender and NullFlavor. He invited members to share feedback.
 - Vassil commented that there is no replacement, though there are some SNOMED codes in the USCDI. TF members commented that this specific value set looks at legal sex, not other definitions. Raymonde described the current focus on value sets to support Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), and TF members summarized recent work done by the HL7 Gender Harmony project on this topic.
 - The TF agreed to maintain this as an appropriate value set for legal sex and to work with stakeholders to adopt the same framework of language and linkage between the standard, the USCDI, and US Core and subsequent changes in those spaces. They added a note to the item to confirm the regulatory application of this standard (i.e., is it for administrative use, not clinical purposes?).
- Steve presented the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, as revised, October 30, 1997. He asked TF members to provide feedback on the use of the version.
 - John asked how the SVAP process is used to ensure that older standards continue to be properly evaluated and maintained. Is there a trigger event? Deven explained that ONC has processes (on its own) to continuously review, update, and maintain standards and described the task of the TF as “taking a snapshot in time” every three years. Steve added that the SVAP does not include every standard used by ONC; the SVAP does not include this standard. Vassil commented that SVAP does not set the floor; it sets an expectation for voluntary use of standards. The job of the TF is to determine when certain standards should be retired or replaced.
 - Raymonde commented that an OMB workgroup is projected to review this standard in the summer of 2024. This information will be passed along to future committees.
 - TF members agreed to recommend maintaining the standard but also to collaborate with appropriate stakeholders, including OMB, to continue to develop, adopt, or modify.

Action Items and Next Steps

Homework for the August 9, 2022, AS TF 2022 Meeting– due by 11:50 p.m., Sunday, August 7:

- In preparation of the next meeting, all task force members are asked to review the disposition tracking spreadsheet on Google documents. The spreadsheet was updated per the suggestions made during the first meeting. Note: Unless members have done so previously, they will need to provide their Gmail address to Accel Solutions to access this document.

Homework Assignment Instructions:

- Review the instructions on the first tab of the spreadsheet and become familiar with the definitions. Reminder – There is not an expectation for one to have in-depth knowledge of every standard. Please feel free to consult others as needed to best inform your recommendation.
- Review the standards listed under Group 6 (see “Review Cycle Grouping” in Column D):
 - Click on the link to the standard (Column A) and begin to get familiar with the standard. The AS TF will discuss each standard during our next task force meeting.
 - In Column V, please indicate with your name if any specific information is needed. For example: “Hans - Need to have a better understanding of dental codes.” Please be careful to avoid overwriting other task force member comments. The co-chairs will determine if external presenters are needed to inform the task force members about a particular



standard.

- In Columns E through U, find the column with your name, and select the appropriate (tentative) disposition for each standard. If you are already familiar with a particular standard, you may be able to select “Maintain”, “Phase Out_Replace/Update”, etc. However, if you are not familiar with the standard, please enter “Working”, and you can update your selection once the task force discusses the standard in more detail. If you are entering a final disposition, please indicate using your name in Column W if you have additional comments or rationale for your disposition. For example: “Hans – standard should be phased out/replaced with alternate standard XYZ.”
- Please indicate in Column V if you would like to lead a discussion on a particular standard. We would like all task force members to consider volunteering to present on standards where you have any level of subject matter expertise.
- Column X will remain empty until recommendations are synthesized and finalized.
- The following AS TF members offered to complete homework prior to the next meeting:
 - Raymonde will work on the final disposition for Group 7, including the standards CDC Race and Ethnicity Code Set Version 1.0 (March 2000), the OMG Standards, and HL7® Version 3 Standard, Value Sets for Administrative Gender and Null Flavor.
 - Vassil will work on the final disposition for the Secure Hash Standard, 180-4 (August 2015).
 - The TF has requested additional data/research on the Syndromic Surveillance (currently tabled) and/or link(s) for further exploration. The TF could invite SMEs to present.
- If anyone has questions, please reach out to the co-chairs or the ONC program team by email.

Public Comment

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VERBALLY

Mike Berry opened the meeting for public comments. There were no public comments received verbally.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ZOOM WEBINAR CHAT

Mike Berry (ONC): Welcome to the Adopted Standards Task Force. Please remember to change the chat to “Everyone” if you would like everyone to see your chat.

Mike Berry (ONC): EHI Sharing Workshop this week: <https://www.healthit.gov/news/events/ehi-sharing-workshop>

Vassil Peytchev: Sounds good to me as well.

Alexis Snyder: agree with Raymonde

John Kilbourne: +1 to Hung

Hung S. Luu: +1 Deven

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

There were no public comments received via email.

Resources

[AS TF Webpage](#)

[AS TF – August 2, 2022 Meeting Webpage](#)

[AS TF – August 2, 2022 Meeting Agenda](#)
[AS TF – August 2, 2022 Meeting Slides](#)
[HITAC Calendar Webpage](#)

Meeting Schedule and Adjournment

Steve thanked everyone for their participation and support. He requested that AS TF members continue to share feedback in the working Google spreadsheet document and briefly reviewed the Group 6 standards that the TF will review at upcoming meetings.

He summarized key achievements from the current meeting and shared a list of upcoming AS TF meetings. The next meeting of the AS TF will be held on August 9, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. E.T.