



# Transcript

## HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HITAC) U.S. CORE DATA FOR INTEROPERABILITY TASK FORCE 2021 MEETING

May 4, 2021, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

VIRTUAL



# Speakers

Name	Organization	Role
<b>Leslie Kelly Hall</b>	<b>Engaging Patient Strategy</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
<b>Steven Lane</b>	<b>Sutter Health</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
Ricky Bloomfield	Apple	Member
Hans Buitendijk	Cerner	Member
Grace Cordovano	Enlightening Results	Member
Jim Jirjis	HCA Healthcare	Member
Ken Kawamoto	University of Utah Health	Member
John Kilbourne	Department of Veterans Health Affairs	Member
Leslie Lenert	Medical University of South Carolina	Member
Clement McDonald	National Library of Medicine	Member
Aaron Miri	The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School and UT Health Austin	Member
Brett Oliver	Baptist Health	Member
Mark Savage	University of California, San Francisco's Center for Digital Health Innovation	Member
Michelle Schreiber	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Member
Abby Sears	OCHIN	Member
Sasha TerMaat	Epic	Member
Andrew Truscott	Accenture	Member
Sheryl Turney	Anthem, Inc.	Member
Daniel Vreeman	RTI International	Member
Denise Webb	Indiana Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center	Member
Cassandra Hadley	Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology	Acting Designated Federal Officer
Matthew Rahn	Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology	Acting Staff Lead





## Call to Order/Roll Call (00:00:00)

### **Operator**

All lines are now bridged.

### **Cassandra Hadley**

Great. Thank you. Good morning, everyone and welcome to the USCDI task force meeting. Today, we'll have continued discussion on Phase 2 recommendations. So, let me officially begin by taking roll. Steven Lane.

### **Steven Lane**

Present.

### **Cassandra Hadley**

Leslie Kelly Hall.

### **Leslie Kelly Hall**

Present.

### **Cassandra Hadley**

Ricky Bloomfield.

### **Ricky Bloomfield**

Good morning.

### **Cassandra Hadley**

Good morning. Hans Buitendijk.

### **Hans Buitendijk**

Good morning.

### **Cassandra Hadley**

Grace Cordovano.

### **Grace Cordovano**

Present. Good morning.

### **Cassandra Hadley**

Good morning. Jim Jirjis. Ken Kawamoto.

### **Ken Kawamoto**

Good morning.

### **Cassandra Hadley**

John Kilbourne.





**John Kilbourne**

Good morning.

**Cassandra Hadley**

And Les Lenert is out today. Clem McDonald. Aaron Miri.

**Aaron Miri**

Good morning.

**Cassandra Hadley**

Brett Oliver. Mark Savage.

**Mark Savage**

Good morning.

**Cassandra Hadley**

Michelle Schreiber. Abby Sears.

**Abby Sears**

Here.

**Cassandra Hadley**

Sasha TerMaat. Andrew Truscott.

**Steven Lane**

He said he would be late.

**Cassandra Hadley**

Okay. Sheryl Turney.

**Sheryl Turney**

I'm here. Thank you.

**Cassandra Hadley**

Thanks. Daniel Vreeman.

**Daniel Vreeman**

Good morning.

**Cassandra Hadley**

And Denise Webb.

**Denise Webb**

Good morning.





**Cassandra Hadley**

Good morning, everybody. And I'll hand it over to Leslie.

**Past Meeting Notes & Tasks 2b and 2c (00:01:41)**

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Good morning, everyone and thanks for great comments and discussion in the last meeting. We've learned a lot from each of you and also from HL7. Before I go on, I'll just let you know about the past meeting notes from last week. They haven't been posted yet. They should be posted today. So, we would encourage you to reflect them and take a look at them today as they get posted. Next slide, please. I think we've got that nailed. Let's go to the next slide. Okay. So, for the last several weeks, we've been discussing how we would work on prioritization. And as a reminder, we thought we'd start there first before we go on to the other recommendations in the submission cycle due in September. So, we've been iterating on several different ideas. We're largely informed by HL7. I thought that was terrific.

And since then, Steven and I met with the ONC leadership team and Micky to get further guidance about how we can be effective and also stay within our guardrails but also push to have those rails a little bit more rubber and to offer ways to have those improved process and, as a result, improved outcome. We've heard loud and clear about some of the desires of this task force as reflect in our recommendations but also as we consider our evaluation criteria and prioritization criteria as we go forward. Steven, do you want to add anything before we go on?

**Steven Lane**

Yeah, thanks. Again, we had a very productive meeting with the ONC team and really got what we felt was very helpful guidance. I think that one of the key points from both that meeting as well as the discussions with HL7 are really that there is flexibility here. There are opportunities for advocacy and, in fact, encouragement from both HL7 and ONC to identify categories, data classes, data elements that warrant particular attention that should be prioritized. Everybody has a finite capacity for work. HL& can only move so many implementation guides forward at a time. ONC feels that the advancements in USCDI should be measured so as not to overwhelm the industry. But all parties are interested in assistance in identifying the true high priorities within every level. Not only within Level 2 as we've been discussing but within Level 1, within the comment level, and even the process of having people submit new data classes and elements into the On Deck system.

So, there is really an enthusiasm for bringing ideas forward, for nurturing those ideas that are not yet full mature and ready for nationwide exchange, and also for highlighting individual opportunities within each of the levels for advancement by both HL7 and ONC. So, I think Leslie is going to walk us through some fresh ideas that many of you have contributed, Abby, Mark, others, as to ways that we could capture those priorities, ways that we could influence the prioritization process. So, again, I think very fruitful meetings and I'm excited to see how we pulled together all of the ideas of this task force to turn into recommendations back to HITAC. I'm wanting to remind you that our HITAC recommendations for Task 2, primarily 2B and C, but we may get some 2A in there as well, are going to be presented at the HITAC on June 9, which mean that we really just have a few weeks to pull together our ideas so we can draft those up. We're probably needing to get those to HITAC the week before.





So, in the first week of June, we're going to want to have our thoughts really fully baked on 2B and C so that we can bring those over. And then, we're going to have additional time later in the spring and the summer to focus in on 2A and Task 3, which I think we'll be able to go back and look at a lot of our earlier suggestions about what we think our priorities are for Version 3. And here, again, we've really been invited, really given **[inaudible] [00:06:48]** to participate and contribute suggestions for Version 3 priorities. And I would say Version 3 and 4. I think that if there are things down deep – we have a new metaphor by the way. We're calling the On Deck system the nest. And the idea is that those little eggs get planted in the next and then, they get nurtured, they get fed, they get taken care of and then, they grow to the point that they can then be hatched into the light of USCDI. So, if there are things in the nest that are down lower that we don't really anticipate will be ready for Version 3, both HL7 in particular but also ONC, really want us to highlight those so that they can get the love that they need and mature to take flight if you will.

We're going to work this metaphor really hard.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Yeah. You can see that we went to chicken and egg many times in our discussions and also in these meetings last week. And we continued with that metaphor and ended up with the On Deck process as the nest. And it, actually, really works because the nest is where everything is hatched. And so, in order to be considered and to grow into full maturity, we start by placing things in the On Deck process. And so, our job is to review, consider, and move things along. So, we were very, very encouraged by all of this. Next slide, please.

**Steven Lane**

And Leslie, before we dig in, I'm reminded that Matt Rahn from the ONC team is here standing in for AI. I know Matt from a number of ONC discussions. And Matt, did you have anything you wanted to throw out before we dive in?

**Matt Rahn**

No. I'm good. I think everything you mentioned so far was along the lines of our discussion. So, thank you. I'm looking forward to hearing the discussion.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Thanks. So, one of the things we really got clarity on in our meeting that we have all been struggling with is how do we prioritize in a framework that's really about maturity. And so, we have a distinctly different way to consider priority and maturity. So, maturity is about something that is quantitative. It's something that we are, actually, looking at and evaluating the maturity of a particular data element. Is it ready for prime time? This is more of an objective review. And these things that ONC had developed are spot on. Maturity is a different idea than actually priority. And before we get started, Aaron, did you have something you wanted to add or Clem?

**Aaron Miri**

I did, actually. I wanted to offer up a real world example and, potentially, just a brainstorm nugget for all of us to think about. So, we are embarking here at UT on a massive equity type of exercise looking for inequities in healthcare. How can we get better? And, of course, at some point, people wise up and go, "Well, let's look at data standards and look at demographics." So, I, literally, got an inquiry from one of your





surgeons last night in our internal medicine group who said, “Aaron, do you know of any resources or standards for demographic and language data collection?” I was like, “I sure do.” I pointed to USCDI and we looked at Version 1 and Version 2 that’s posted but coming soon, which was perfect. And it was another question of it’s interesting that gender identity is so underdeveloped, etc., racial and ethnic information. So, my thought of pondering for this group to consider is as we look at prioritization of data elements, is it possible to look at it also through the lens of what could help us reduce inequities across the healthcare landscape and begin to shed light and highlight areas of unintended disparity?

But because the data standards, at some point, we’re only now really starting to get into the mean of SDOH and others, is that a potential lens to look at and prioritize? So, beyond the maturity of a data element like you were just speaking about, does it also help advance the cause of leveling the playing field and opening access to all?

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

I think you’ll be pleased with our initial phases. I think we’re starting to address just that, Aaron. And I think a sense of priority as something different versus maturity gives us a chance to have two lenses on the same work and gives us a chance to really respond to the moment of the day or to the need of the community. We’ve had a health crisis. We all had to react differently in data and standards. Now, that’s a great lesson. So, we need to be able to accommodate both maturity and priority. Clem, did you have something to add before we go to the next slide?

**Clem McDonald**

So, this business for the one just discussed, my understanding is that there is a cooked set of questions for that. So, it is mature. Maybe people can’t agree on it and that’s another story. We can’t solve that. But that’s been out for a year or two. I forget what group that did it. We talked about it at one of these committee meetings. So, I don’t think it’s a maturity problem. But it could be there is political disagreement. And then, I think we’re screwed. We can’t force those agreements if that’s what it is.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Well, let’s go through this and go to the next slide. Mark, did you have something to comment before we go on?

**Mark Savage**

Just a question on the prior slide. It says no changes. I just wondered what those words meant because the slide that comes after that I’ve looked at suggests that we’re, actually, brainstorming.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

What we’ve ended up with is – this is as is. This is the maturity standards as is with no changes. And much of the things we’ve talked about in terms of maturity, with the exception of Clem’s comment about there might not be agreement, maturity, this is pretty quantitative. It’s very much more black and white. And so, we can ask for suggestions. But let’s get through to the next because I think the majority of the time we’re talking about priority.

**Steven Lane**





Actually, Les, before we leave maturity, I want to just highlight Mark's point. And Mark, I think it really is a suggestion that I think we're making as co-chairs that we've dug into this. The one concrete suggestion that we've heard was really from Hans in the upper right hand corner considering changing that "or" to an "and". One could raise the bar with regard to maturity requirements. One could lower the bar. I think what we found here in our first set of recommendations was that there are some items that made it into Level 2 but that yet, still HL7 and others feel that there is more work yet to be done. And we identified some as really requiring the completion of implementation guides or applicable standards before they be added. So, while I think that one could argue that these lines might be adjusted to either raise them or lower them, I think, on the whole, they kind of hit a sweet spot. ONC put a lot of thought into this. And I think Leslie and I, at this point at least, are of the opinion that these are pretty good.

Something really should meet the criteria of Level 2 before being advanced to USCDI. And even that, in some cases, leaves a gap that we, as a task force, and ONC in responding to our recommendations may feel needs to be closed. So, there is this dynamic discussion between HL7 and ONC now about how and whether they can advance things that are not yet truly mature, even beyond the criteria for getting into Level 2. So, I think we're just saying we think this is pretty good. There's not a strong argument for moving the bar higher or lower. And we wanted to focus on the prioritization piece because I think there's a real opportunity and a real ask from both HL7 and ONC for us to contribute there. So, I didn't want to blow off your comment. We have talked about this. But unless you or somebody else feels strongly, our general sense, at this point, is that this is pretty solid.

### **Mark Savage**

I don't disagree that maturity is important. I thought I saw on the next slide a recognition that sometimes, high national priority might be a factor alongside somewhat lesser maturity and that balancing everything together, we would still consider going forward. And so, that's why I was trying to understand how this all fit together. So, maybe I should just stop and listen.

### **Leslie Kelly Hall**

So, what we're trying to say, and I've said it poorly, is that instead of just having a single or unilateral approach that maturity is the only lens that we look at, we're also adding another lens of priority. And let me give an example. Abby brought up a comment about there is already a huge exchange going on in SDOH. And she has to serve many different states. So, she has a large exchange and a high priority but no standard exist. So, it would be a low maturity but a high priority and a high change at number of exchange. So, that in itself could move a definition to a Level 2 or beyond. So, we're simply trying to insert into this prioritization criteria or in our overall work both the idea of priority and maturity. So, once we have this, we will use this to test it against other criteria that we consider. Let me get through this first and then, we'll talk about the other recommendations we want to have you guys to see.

So, in prioritization, we have something that addresses the significant gaps of concept. Now, in this case, to make a Level 2, it must represent using technology standards or element of something that's valid, technical specifications and addresses the gap in care coordination or transition aligned with existing ONC certification or CMS initiatives. So, you've got a regulatory initiative like the quality initiatives that we keep hearing about. There's a definition, a vocabulary but it must be used to repurpose to meet regulatory needs. So, this gets to the fact that there could be vocabulary. There could be collection methods. But they can be or must be repurposed to meet regulatory needs. This goes back to Clem's comment that said sometimes,





we can have a narrative. Sometimes, we can put this through and repurpose something to meet this need. So, this starts to align with that idea of repurposing. The modest technical standard is that some technical standards exist and they can be repurposed or expanded, efforts are mature, and use cases prevalent like an op note. You've done and you might have many, many more.

So, the idea here is a low hanging fruit. And we heard this from HL7 and I think we heard this from Hans and also Clem that said sometimes, once you've gone through all of the standards work like notes, you can just keep adding all of those notes. And this is trying to get to that. So, it's a higher use case or a higher priority because it's something that can be repurposed quite easily. The ability to have a modest aggregate lift under development and implementation, this is current functionality and interoperability exists, can be expanded. Some efforts are under way. And the use case is prevalent. A data addressing equity and disparities. It might be represented by terminology or an element or a technical barrier. But it directly supports national initiatives to improve health, healthcare quality, care coordination, and disparities. So, this is like kind of a road map item that standards community could see and say that's coming. Let's respond.

Let's make sure that we meet at the same point in time when USCDI is ready, our standards are ready. Data supporting underserved stakeholder groups. Now, this could be both the clinical underserved and SDOH underserved of any other type. But it pertains to large group of patients or majority of patients and their care partners and care team members requiring its use and addresses needs for data underserved. This could be something that all of us, for instance, are underserved in advance directives being prevalent in the industry or prevalently exchanged. So, it's well used but still serves an underserved need but there has to be ability to move that forward. And then, data supporting public health might be represented using terminology or standards but it must be accelerated in response to public health needs. So, this is not only a road map but it's a road map with dynamite that says hey, this has got to be done right now because there is a significant public need.

And then, meets national importance has moderate to high technical and standards uplift. This might be a timeline driven national imperative within a two year horizon. It might be something like a quality initiative is undertaken, it's put out at a future date. How do we go to meet that date? So, what we attempted to do with these prioritizations is take existing comments and try to come up with a framework that we could then use in our prioritization work. I see Clem has his hand up. Clem. Clem, I think you're on mute.

**Clem McDonald**

No, I'm not.

**Steven Lane**

There you go, Clem. Go ahead.

**Clem McDonald**

So, I think they've screwed up. So, back in the fall, they had, I don't know, 30 questions or 40 or whatever it was. They had it done to get regrouped. And they all have LOINC codes. So, it's kind of ready. But now, they're getting this more complicated thing about using the other resources and figuring out how do you really use them, how do you make people put in the stuff you want them to put in. If they took it a step at a time, we'd be done. And all of these states are using this kind of thing. There is a thing called prickly pear.





We have a disconnect here. So, I think we need to try to tamp down some of the standards with needs, the perceived need, to make a whole new users' guide for every little thing. If we did that with lab tests, we'd never be done. Now, we've got one for CBC, one for urinalysis. So, I don't know how we can introduce that idea back to them. Here's one with a survey insert. All right. Here is a general structure and anything you want to put in you can put in if it doesn't kill the system in terms of work.

### **Steven Lane**

So, Clem, let me respond for a second. Thank you. What I love about you, Clem, is you don't let us drop things until we really resolve them. So, I think your comment about the SDOH and the prepare questions is a good one. I think that what you're identifying is a number of things. So, there is the work being done in the community. There is how ONC evaluates that against the levels. And then, there is the prioritization. And I think that what ONC did was they looked at what was submitted by Gravity and others around SDOH and they identified a short list of items as Level 2. And then, we have called those out for inclusion. And then, HL7 is working, literally, in lock step in trying to evaluate whether and how soon they can include those. So, while it isn't the entirety of perhaps the items in the preparer instrument, it clearly would move us down that path. The point that you make so eloquently is that once it's baked into a standard, we should just take it all lock, stock, and barrel.

And I think that point has been made well. And I think it's been heard. There have been a number of folks who have opined that once you start a data class, you might as well include all of the data elements at the same time. It may have some benefits for the developers, for the implementers, etc. So, I think you've made a really good point there. I think, at this point though, we are still dependent on ONC in their wisdom and based on their calculus to determine which data elements, in particular, are ready. And I think that we have to go back to the process within On Deck and within the USCDI site and invite stakeholders to add comments. It's those public comments, it's those discussions that inform the ONC decision making process. And we're going to talk in a bit about how often and at what cadence ONC should be changing the levels. So, I think the argument you're making is that they're SDOH items that got leveled a little lower and, therefore, were not open for consideration in V2. But perhaps we should be looking at a more regular cycle of releveling and re-analysis and responding to all of the input that people are providing publicly.

So, that's where I think this fits. So, go ahead, Clem.

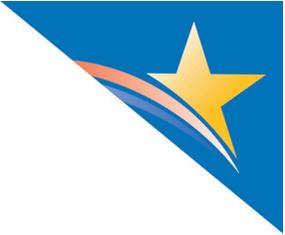
### **Clem McDonald**

Well, I agree with all that you said but I think the mistake that has been made was adding in general purpose resources from FHIR as part of the SDOH. It dragged it all down. They really don't know how to use that for SDOH. That's why they have to do some details in terms of the HL7 guide. So, you record problems. So, what's new? Well, they've got to specify something else and how to do it to get SDOH in there. That hasn't been done. If they just stayed with the questionnaire, they'd be done. So, I don't know.

### **Leslie Kelly Hall**

So, I think what you're saying, Clem, and I hear it and I think that's really valid is there are a lot of disconnects here. And I think we acknowledge that. The one you're talking about is sort of that initial assessment that says what do we have that can move this along and is there a gap or can something be repurposed. And I attempted to gather those thoughts in this prioritization to talk about repurposing. I'd love to get something from you that talks about that more generally because what we can do is say we





acknowledge in this prioritization process that this data element or requested data element at a Level 2 has some emerging work. However, we also acknowledge that that emerging work might take longer than the need. And, therefore, repurposing should be considered. So, we could have a statement of review but I don't think we can go into HL7 and say, "Hey HL7, what do you mean? Why aren't you using a questionnaire form? You can do this all of the time."

So, I think that would be in a comment or some other process. So, I think we hear you. We'd love to see how to change these words in the prioritization that reflects the bias towards repurposing for new criteria rather than a new factory for those things. I see Abby has her hand up.

### **Abby Sears**

Yeah. I have quite a few things. I have quite a few comments related to all of this. I'm sure that's not surprising. But I'm going to respond to what Clem was saying and what you just said, Leslie. The reason why we did not make a recommendation to take preparer as an entity, which is not what our recommendation in our letter stated as a request to the ONC, is because it's a lot of work to collect all of that data in the field. And not all of it is proving to be as useful. It doesn't all have the same value on the collection and on the impact of the data collection. So, there is some value for those of us who have been collecting this data for four and five years to, actually, hear what we are learning through peer reviewed research related to this data and the challenges of collecting the data in the field around what is most valuable. And as we are turning on social service record locators all over the country, we have connections with Aunt Bertha. We have connections with United Us. We are building the connection to Now POW.

What is going to move in those transactions where we're moving that data is not the whole preparer. So, there is no point in us taking the whole preparer and requiring it across the country if it doesn't all have the same value because it's a lot of work and it costs money. It's an administrative burden. So, I wanted to put that out there. The second thing that I wanted to say was I want to back up to something about maturity conversations. The challenge we have, I think, on some of this conversation is that the people sitting at the tables that are influencing a lot of this work are not necessarily as versed around what's going on with social service organizations or with predominantly safety net patients. Our voices are not as prevalent as the commercial population. And that's fine. It's not good or bad. There is no judgment in that. It just is. So, as we talk about maturity and we talk about where things are at in the process, the people at the table are speaking to what they know and they don't know.

Their knowledge is not as strong in these areas. And that's the thing that I keep trying to, in my head, come back to is how do we make that different and how do we create criteria. And I think you did a really nice job of trying to find some balance. But I would like to caution us around the process of the maturity question around this because it's an immature field. And the people that do have the information we're talking as though people aren't doing this. There are a lot of people doing this. They're just not sitting at the tables where we're, actually, having these conversations. So, it seems like it's less prevalent than what it really is. The last thing I want to say is we also need to be careful because the systems that a lot of these organizations are using do not have the maturity to handle more complicated data collection and movement. So, if you look at a very small mental health clinic that they weren't funded with the ARA money, they don't necessarily have interoperable systems in all of these cases.





It's like the public health system. The infrastructure is not as advanced. So, it is important to use a smaller set. I'm very supportive of using a smaller set and moving that smaller set forward. And then, my very last thing would be, thanks for hanging with me, on the data supporting underserved stakeholder groups, my request would be to strike the word majority. Majority in our country is commercial. It's not a minority population or an at risk population.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

That's great, Abby. Can we go back a slide, please? So, one of the things that is kind of the number of stakeholders or the maturity of content exchange. So, you mentioned that people are already exchanging this data but we don't have the standards nailed that we should. And that's, I think, an example of where you might have maturity. There is current exchange at a Level 2. There is certainly between more than four organizations. The standards are immature but the priority is high. So, that's why we want to, eventually, we might even get to some sort of grid that accommodates all of these. So, a mechanism that might visually depict that's a low maturity of standards, a high exchange rate. It's in production in two or more different systems. But the differences are what's making it count. And so, we have a high priority associated with that to align and come up with standards. So, I think we're hearing you. It's just how to best accommodate both of these thoughts.

But I've got notes down and I'm going to attempt to do that. I think, Grace, did you have a question? Maybe not. Yes? And Sheryl has her hand up. So, Grace, go ahead and then, Sheryl.

**Grace Cordovano**

I just want to point out in the chat, Steven had put in the link for the opportunity to provide submissions and all stakeholders can submit. Coming from the patient and care partner perspective and looking at the submission process, and I know we will be going through that as well, one of my concerns and connecting to Abby's point is it's a complex matter to have to submit all of this. Some people may need from the general public and a layperson who does not have the privilege of all of the information that we do in doing the work that we do, may need support in completing their submission. Would there be a way for, I don't know, someone on the task force to be able to someone? Is there a help submission group? How do we better support the public? Because there are questions there that people may not answer or know how to answer but with some guidance would be able to.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

So, Grace, that's great. That may not be on a grid but as a process request, how do we enlighten, educate, and encourage public comment from those that may not have the expertise or involvement that we've had? So, that could be a separate recommendation because we are representing the public world as well but we might not know what those needs are. So, encouraging some sort of primer for those who need it as education steps. We can add that as well. Other comments?

**Steven Lane**

Sheryl's hand is up.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Yes, thanks. Sheryl.





**Sheryl Turney**

Thank you. And I just wanted to say that I also agree with what Grace has mentioned. I know that there have been a number of folks that I've been working with in the payer community who wanted to support the Gravity recommendations but weren't exactly sure how it was best to do that, especially since they weren't the initiator of the recommendation in the first place. But also, I wanted to say, to go back to the slide that you were just on that I really like this approach of leveling and looking at the different, not only maturity but also priority because I think it does provide a better discussion point for this group and others to really understand what's the driving need. So, I want to say that I really support that and I like this approach.

**Steven Lane**

Thanks, Sheryl. And let me just add that one of the things that we heard from Steve Posnack is really that priority can be identified at every level. And I think this is really important. There can be things down at comment, Level 1, Level 2 that meet these priority criteria. So, these are not simply to be applied to Level 2 data elements and classes. What this does is it identifies high priority items wherever they are in the process of maturing so that everyone can give them the love that they need whether it's HL7, whether it's the community, etc. And, certainly, I suspect that in the Version 3 submission cycle that is open and will probably really accelerate after the July announcement that we're going to have hundreds of items that are in the nest. So, this prioritization is not really meant to move things between levels. Maturity is still going to be required. But it's meant to identify those things that communities can organize around and that HL7 can do their work on, etc., to really mature them in an accelerated manner.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

I see some more comments in the chat. Are there others that have specific recommendations or what we've left out? Are there any other comments, discussion?

**Steven Lane**

Just a quick idea, which is simply that we've been using this term data underserved. And I think we need to add some specificity to that. What are the criteria going to be? One shouldn't be able to just say I'm data underserved. What kind of data might be brought forward to validate the claim that a certain stakeholder or a certain use case is representing the data underserved? I think, at some point, we're going to want to grapple with that. Sorry, Abby.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

That's a really great point because the data underserved could be a stakeholder group entirely underserved but standards that are mature and everything is exchanged. So, we could add a stakeholder. And that might, actually, add some complexity but not a lot. So, this is a tough thing to define. We're working on it. We are hearing all of your comments. I see, Hans, you have a comment. I talked over someone and I can't remember who it was. I'm sorry. Abby, was that you?

**Abby Sears**

Yeah. You had asked about the comments. I sent a note yesterday. But I think we just are asking for a consideration really to some small language modifications. It's not dramatically changing the intent. It's not changing the intent on this at all. But the language would be, we think, a little bit more supportive to ARA's patient population. So, I wanted you to know I put that in the comments.





**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Okay. Super. Thank you, Abby. I see Hans' comment. Did you want to add anything?

**Hans Buitendijk**

Yeah. Just adding to the note, I like the suggestion on visual representation of source that it's easy to understand where a data element class fits along these lines of priorities and maturity. And if we go in that direction, which I would support then, where a level is an "and" or an "or" or how many buckets there are is not as critical because you can have a good, clear understanding by data element where it fits in certain area that might get too complicated for here but some Aspire diagrams that agreed to a set of axis that indicates where it sits. And if everything is only outside then, that's the most mature and highest priority then, that can help as well. so, something visual would be very helpful to get quick insight.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Great. Thank you. I agree. I think we have another slide here to discuss. This is the last slide. So, it didn't make it in this slide. So, we did have some specific recommendations about the frequency of looking at the leveling and whose responsibility that should be or is it combined. And then, we also had a question about the frequency of review of the nest. So, the first question is we have put forward an idea that would allow for this group to, each time we go through a new versioning cycle, to go through and look at the current level definitions. And this would be an opportunity to contribute our knowledge to the leveling processes so that in the event that we do see recommendations that need to be made that would become part of our recommendations to HITAC. So, to Abby's point, those in the field might see something that is of different definition and needs to advance beyond the current leveling process. So, a suggestion we have is that that leveling process include a contribution by this committee.

So, that would be one starting point for us. And then, the other starting point, which would be before the leveling, is taking a look at the On Deck to see whether that nest needs to advance to Level 1 or Level 2 or Comment Level 1 or Level 2. So, there are two questions for the group. Do you support this idea of having our task force included both deliberate review of On Deck and deliberate contribution to leveling? And then, also the next question is do we want to encourage or recommend a new cadence for ONC's consideration of leveling and On Deck. So, the first question is how do you guys feel about including a deliberate review and contribution for On Deck and leveling?

**Clem McDonald**

By whom?

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

By our group. We would be providing comments, looking at the leveling process, and contributing to that as part of a recommendation.

**Steven Lane**

But, again, this is just a task force. We are not prepared to, actually, do the work. We are going to make recommendations to HITAC that will then, make recommendations to ONC. So, I think if we feel that there needs to be more resource dedicated to the leveling and prioritization process, if we think there needs to be a change to the timeline or, certainly, to the criteria themselves, those are fair game for us.





**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Is there general support of that?

**Clem McDonald**

I think so. It gets very complicated otherwise. We don't know who really is in charge. I think ONC is in charge.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Yeah. ONC is in charge. We're trying to make sure that our voices are included in their process. And as part of a recommendation, we would then say this needs to be additionally resourced. And we would also encourage that to be done on a cadence as prescribed.

**Steven Lane**

And I think it's important to realize that this diagram that we're showing, the top four items are really those that the ONC has in place. We could, certainly, tweak the language connected to those as appropriate. The bottom four, equity, underserved, public health use case, and national priorities or imperatives, those are the things that we are suggesting as additions to inform the prioritization schema. And these really came out of the suggestions of this group and the discussions that we've been having. So, I think Abby has offered some specific language. Abby, which row does your language fit on?

**Abby Sears**

The specific language goes back one slide to the use case.

**Steven Lane**

Oh, to the leveling?

**Abby Sears**

Yes. And it speaks to the Level 1 and Level 2 definitions.

**Steven Lane**

So, which cells in particular?

**Abby Sears**

Level 1 and Level 2. I would add the language that I put in the chat. Let me see if I can read it here.

**Steven Lane**

So, you're on the lowest row, the use cases, number of stakeholders impacted?

**Abby Sears**

Correct. So, it says pertinent to many but not most patients, providers, or events requiring its use. Well, we're suggesting it's pertinent to many but not most patients, providers, or relevant events or used by few stakeholders or narrowly defined conditions or events if related to underserved patients of public health. I don't think it changes it dramatically but I think it is a little more technically helpful for us.

**Steven Lane**





So, you're, specifically, in the cell of Level 1 and use cases? Is that the cell you're focusing on?

**Abby Sears**

Yes. Bottom middle and bottom right, Level 1 and Level 2.

**Steven Lane**

Bottom right, okay. So, let's spend some time there because what you're saying is used by few stakeholders or supports the narrowly defined condition or event if related to these priority areas. So, it's saying that you don't need to pertain to the majority to be able to make it into really it's Level 2 that's most relevant here because that's sort of the launch pad.

**Abby Sears**

Right.

**Steven Lane**

Okay. I get it now. I'm sorry. I needed to put your language into context. So, that's lowering the bar. And, again, Hans earlier had the suggestion up in the upper right of changing the "or" or the "and", which would be raising the bar. But I must say I like what you're suggesting. It brings the prioritization dimensions into the discussion. And I don't know if Andy has joined us. He hasn't yet. But he keeps our focus on the word core. What does it mean for something to be core data? And it was a great thing that Steve Posnack, I think, was saying when we had our discussion with him the other day. And he had this metaphor where he said USCDI is a horizontal bar that cuts across multiple use cases and stakeholders. And in his vision at least, USCDI is not meant to be comprehensive. It's meant to drive consistency across our community and ecosystem but not to include everything. And individual stakeholders and their needs or individual use cases and their data requirements he saw those more as vertical bars and that the USCDI was meant to support all of them.

I think that that's not inconsistent with what you're saying. What you're saying is that there is a stakeholder community, an underserved community that doesn't need to be the majority but still warrants consideration to push something for inclusion in the interests of advocacy or, what was the word I was using last time, affirmative action to support that. So, I'm curious what others think because I think making a change in the leveling is somehow more fundamental than making a change in the prioritization. Maybe not. But I'm curious what others think about Abby's suggestion to modify, especially that lower right box where I think it's most relevant to say that it doesn't need to be the majority but that it can be a priority item that drives it into Level 2.

**Abby Sears**

And can I just make one more point on it before everybody comments? By definition, our data is not a majority. So, I think what we're trying to, actually, communicate in the additional language is **[inaudible]** **[00:51:37]**, they're just not going to be a majority. And, therefore, we have to protect and bring them forward in another way.

**Steven Lane**

Grace?





**Grace Cordovano**

Steven and Leslie, if I may ask, as we discussed prioritization and standards for the short term, I just genuinely don't know what happens on October 6, 2022, when the full effectiveness and implementation of the information blocking rule happens? Does a metaphorical flood gate open everything [inaudible]?

**Steven Lane**

I'd say yes. And I think Jim Jirjis raised this issue early on that when all EHI is made available through the support of the information blocking rules, clearly some of that will have more structure and supporting standards and will meet the criteria of inclusion in USCDI and a lot of it won't. so, there will be a flood gate of non-standardized data that our community and stakeholder groups will start to deal with. Jim made a good point. Should we be suggesting certain items because once they start moving, they might even do more harm than good in the absence of this level of standardization? But again, I think that that's a prioritization issue. And I think it's very consistent with the prioritization schema that we see on the next slide, the orange slide. So, I think that there is a great opportunity for either us or HITAC or any public commenter to identify those items that really we need the structure around because it's going to start moving anyway. I hope that addresses your question.

**Clem McDonald**

Can I weigh in a bit?

**Steven Lane**

Actually, Clem, just hold on for a second because Mark has his hand up. Mark, do you want to weigh in on this instead of typing it?

**Mark Savage**

Thank you. If you go back a slide, I'm wondering, and I guess this goes to Abby's point, the last row, Level 1 and Level 2 cells, the phrase, "Requiring its use," I'm realizing that I read that as being a way to refer to subsets of all patients nationwide or all providers nationwide or all events nationwide and that it was just those that required its use. But I'm realizing I don't know if ONC means it that way or if ONC is using it that way. So, I guess it's a clarification question.

**Steven Lane**

Matt, do you want to take a stab at that?

**Matt Rahn**

Can you ask that question again? Sorry.

**Steven Lane**

I'll try to rephrase it and see if I've got it right, Mark. So, in this lower right box, "Pertains to majority of patients, providers, or events requiring its use," clearly, we know it means to apply the majority of patients or providers. But when we talk about events requiring its use, it might be a rare event. It might be a minority event. But the data pertains to the majority of those events, even if they are minority. Or are we saying that it has to be a majority event to qualify here? And you may not know the answer to this. Mark is asking what do you mean by that. Go ahead, Mark.

**Mark Savage**

I wondered if requiring its use applied not only to events in the way you describe but also to patients and providers. It could be a limitation on all three. I don't know.

**Steven Lane**

I see. So, it might just be transplant surgeons who require the use of this piece of data. They are not the majority of the providers but they are the ones requiring its use. Good point.

**Matt Rahn**





So, when you're talking about it pertains to the majority of patients, providers, or events requiring its use, let me get back to you on that. I'll write that down and just confirm because I don't want to say anything that takes you down a path that we shouldn't be going down.

**Steven Lane**

That's totally fair, Matt. Thank you. I think, Mark, you make a really good point. If it means what you interpret it as meaning, we really don't have nearly the gap that I think Abby was trying to address.

**Clem McDonald**

Should I put my hand up? I guess I should.

**Steven Lane**

We got you, Clem. Go ahead.

**Clem McDonald**

So, I'm of two minds. On the one hand, the purpose of this is if you stack things up and we got to do work to get these in, we'd like to have the ones that are statistically important in some sense. So, I think majority is way too strong but an important share or something like that because we're going to have little, bitty things fighting against things, which will be beneficial to many more. So, I think we need something like this. But I don't think hardly anything will be applied to a majority of patients or a majority of events. But somehow, to prioritize quantifiable stuff, everybody should get a hemoglobin A1C, everybody should get a Pro BNP, that's an extreme example. So, I think the word majority is wrong. But I think we should emphasize some kind of numerosity. Putting share or something like that might be a better word.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

I think Abby's recommendation is good. And in the next meeting, we'll come back with those included here in the red line so that you can see on both of them. I also heard what is our responsibility for the general October 22 release? What recommendations do we have, generally, for that process? I think that's a good question that Steven and Grace brought up. And also, Clem, that gets to your bias for repurpose. In 2022, if the flood gates open, what can we repurpose? How do we get there faster? So, I think those are good suggestions.

**Clem McDonald**

So, I wanted to comment on the structure versus non-structure. And I don't think we can survive electronic messaging without some structure. There is no date. It will be a total mess. So, I don't think we mean to say there will be no structure but there won't be much internal structure. It's free test versus structure but it's nice to know the name of the test and to know the date it was done. And the patient. It's really important to know who the patient is on it so you can put it in the right place. So, I think we should be careful about treating them as binary differences like they're sort of a continuum. But we've got to have some structure or you can't deliver it to an appropriate place.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Yeah. Are we running out of time?

**Steven Lane**

No, we're good.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

So, I think you're right, Clem. There has to be some structure and there is a balance to all of this. That is certain. To Hans' point earlier, having a visual representation will help us to see where priorities trump maturity or maturity trumps priority or stakeholders even trump both or an even trumps both. And I guess I shouldn't be using that word in this administration. Sorry. But yeah, thank you. I think these are really great comments to consider. So, we will go back and revise these and make general recommendations that we've noted today. Steven, is there more discussion?





**Steven Lane**

Yeah. Hans made a good point in the chat that this gap between USCDI and all EHI included in the designated record set is a gap that the industry is really going to have to struggle with. And we've raised this point with ONC. And Mike Lipinski is going to join us next week on our meeting to address just that. So, I think if people have very specific perspectives on that issue or comments, I see we lost Jim Jirjis, I was going to call him out on this. But anybody who wants to engage with that, we're going to do that next week. I would like to go up again to the orange slide. And thank you, Katie and team, for being so flexible here. But again, I want to remind everyone that the top four are existing. The bottom four are new suggestions. And we tried to kind of capture all of our discussion into equity, underserved, public health, and national imperatives. I think that some of these prioritization issues will morph over time. Certainly, the last one.

Who knows what the hot topic will be 12 or 24 months from now? It could be about seniors. It could be about newborns. It could be about something that is not on the top of the conversation today. So, I think these are designed to be somewhat flexible. But we're really interested in wordsmithing. Truly, we bring these suggestions to HITAC. We want to make sure that we're reflecting the thoughts of this group. So, one thing that I'll throw out as a discussion point is in the underserved row. Are we talking about underserved stakeholders as is suggested in the left hand column broadly? Or are we talking about simply the data underserved as is suggested in the right hand column? Are we talking about those who are underserved by services? What do we mean by underserved? And then, of course, as we were saying earlier, what do we mean by data underserved? I think we need to clarify that a bit more on this document. Grace, your arm us up.

**Grace Cordovano**

I have a question now. I think that this chart is fantastic and it captures so many discussion points from so many members. I wanted to ask if there was a grading system here and you met all of these categories, you would get eight points but for something else you would get two points. So, is there an additional supplemental grid here for leveling depending on where an item may land according to this mark?

**Steven Lane**

I'll try to speak for AI. I think on the top four, the thought was that these were "ands". The things that they included in their draft V2, I believe, address all four of those. When I first crafted this, and Leslie has taken it and run with it, I suggested that the bottom four were more "ors". You sort of need all of the things in the top just practically in order for things to move forward in the USCDI. And the things in the bottom really give the focus. And again, we've discussed this in using various metaphors. I've used the metaphor of the asterisk. Within Level 2, there is all kinds of stuff. Within Level 1, there is all kinds of stuff. Where is the focus going to be? And I think the idea here is that meeting one or more of the lower four items here is going to give a data class or element that asterisk that's going to say we should really focus on this. Whether you want one, two, three, four asterisks, I don't know. At a certain point, you spend more time doing the leveling or the prioritizing that you do, actually, getting the work done. The point here is we want to identify those things that really need extra focus.

So, you tell us. What do you think the best way to approach that is?

**Grace Cordovano**

I think that's a great point. I think I'd like to, actually, run through a few examples and see what it looks like as you work through it almost like a mock prioritization. I think that's the way we're really going to uncover it. And my initial reaction was that the bottom four elements would help something carry more weight and would be very essential and could tie into whatever the next task force's major challenge is. Whether it's the underserved stakeholder groups, is it addressing post COVID-19 long hauler syndromes or whatever the charge may be goes forth. Could it be the bonus points and really push something ahead of other class elements? But I guess we need to do a mock [inaudible].





**Leslie Kelly Hall**

And it could be something even if you go back to the blue slide, we've been giving these guys color, it could be something that an item comes in and it has maturity at current Level 1, current use 2, stakeholders impacted 1 and then, priority level meets all of those bottom four priorities. So, all of a sudden, we say we need to move that further into Level 2 and maybe into USCDI. And to Hans' point, if we could depict that with a graph, maybe a quadrant of where those things fit, it might be something that, if designed visually, we could get it done quickly and have a way to have a litmus test, basically, on this. But any suggestions for process would be encouraged. Dan, do you have a suggestion?

**Daniel Vreeman**

I think so. So, I wanted to come back to your earlier question about our recommendations and the involvement of the task force and/or its next constitution or some other body like it. And I believe that would be extremely helpful. Clearly, making judgements around these various dimensions requires having a lot of different perspectives. And it's very hard for any group but a smaller group to really have a well informed opinion. And I think the diversity of perspectives that a group like this brings is extremely important to that. My question was whether your proposition included this prioritization access as well as the overall leveling access meaning the maturity criteria as well as this prioritization criteria. Was that the intent when you were asking about that?

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Yes.

**Daniel Vreeman**

Okay. I support it in both cases.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Okay. Good deal. Are there any other comments or things we've left out? Trying to gather all of your comments and interviews and put it in this grid was a good challenge for us. And we want to make sure it's right. And to Steven's point back on the orange slide, wordsmithing is welcomed. And so, you've all received this information. Please feel free to think about this, send suggestions back to us. I think that we have attempted to meet all of the needs. I captured where I don't think we have from each of you. Are there other comments or considerations from the group, Steven, that you'd like to bring up for discussion as well?

**Steven Lane**

So, I threw out a specific addition, if you will, suggesting that the top four lines here are all "ands" and that the bottom four are additions. They get you extra credit if you will. And I don't know whether meeting two of the bottom four or all four of the bottom four gets you even more extra credit. Again, I think it's going to be up to ONC. But I'm just curious. Does anyone disagree with that sense that the top four from ONC's initial work probably need to be met for something to reasonably be added to a next version?

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Mark?

**Mark Savage**

Thanks. As I said earlier, I don't disagree with the importance of maturity. I come back to the experience I had and I tried to share from the advanced health models in the work group where nothing was a minimum but you looked at things across the different criteria. So, to your comment, Steven, should all of the top four be an "and", I see the importance of them. But when we get to the bottom four, we talk about some national needs, health equity where we might want that to drive more effort around maturity. I, personally, lean more towards that balancing considering the totality of the circumstances in coming up with a recommendation than to say because you didn't meet the first four, you're out of consideration. It's a gray area. And you've heard it from me. I've shared this idea before. So, I don't want to belabor it. But that's my thought. Thanks.

**Steven Lane**





Well, I think your point is particularly well taken when you look at the second row aligned with certification and/or CMS initiatives. There is going to be stuff that's rare. Some underserved group that may well not align with ONC certification or CMS initiatives that yet should be considered as a high priority and perhaps move forward. So, you've convinced me to think deeper. So, I don't know that that one should be an absolute requirement. It seems like addressing significant gaps in USCDI current version is sort of a no brainer. The only reason you're bringing something forward is because it's felt to address an existing gap, right? The whole issue of modesty with regards to the work that needs to go into it by the standards community, by the vendors, by the users. There, again, it's hard to argue with that modesty because if you ask too much, it's just not going to succeed. If you say, "Okay, vendors, you have to drop everything and do just this because it's so immodest," that just seems unrealistic.

So, it kind of seems like three and four are also required. So, we can, certainly, shuffle these. We could have some "ands" and some "ors". Or as you say, you could just throw caution to the wind and give one point to each and see what comes out as an eight. But I worry that if you do that then, you might miss something really important, right? So, I think it's probably worth doing the work to think about "ands" and "ors" but maybe not. In the end, ONC is going to do what they want, right?

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Hans, what's your comment?

**Hans Buitendijk**

Yeah. I want to mention to where Mark was going to look a little more at the totality. And I think it's perhaps a question of what time in the process are we doing that. If we are early on "now" then, we say we have a candidate list and this is the selection of it and we can get good insight that can help us with identifying perhaps some areas that in the next year, nine or twelve months leading up before Version 3 is finalized whatever the timeline is that we, indeed, can provide the right signal to say we really want the industry to focus on prepping everything that you need to be ready so that by the time we get to the final recommendation of what goes into V3, which is not now but isn't until later, that we say has it met everything. Is it all up to all of the "ands" that we need before it really gets into V3 versus now, at this point in time, there are a little bit more of the "ors" that can help identify which are high priority but are lower on maturity of standards? Can we help move them along?

So, I think it depends on where we are in the phase, in the progression whether these are "ands" and "ors" and how we look at that. So, right now, I would look at them much more as "ors". A year from now, I would look at a couple of them as "ands" or not put them in because they're not far enough along.

**Steven Lane**

I think you make a really good point, Hans, which is that the original list that this came from was really designed for prioritizing from V2 to be included in the next draft. And now, what we're saying and what both HL7 and ONC have encouraged us to look at is how to identify priority classes and elements, even when they are lower down at the comment and Level 1 levels. So, I think the use of this prioritization schema is going to be different if you're talking about prioritizing within Level 2 as opposed to identifying priority items that are lower down in the process.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

Matt has a comment and then, I'd like to offer a proposal. Matt?

**Matt Rahn**

Thanks. This is a great discussion. We're still pretty much in the first round of this whole process. So, I definitely appreciate any of the comments on here. And we put the link in the chat. But we mentioned in our standards bulletin that there could be refinements and changes based on the submissions received, the high priority target areas and any other potential factors that come in. That may update our criteria for how we decide what goes into the next version. And this is great what I see on the screen right now. This looks good at first to me. And at the end of the day, the goal is, hopefully, it seems obvious that it should be





included in USCDI Version 2 or 3 or 4. It's getting pushed so far along that it just makes it obvious. But I appreciate the discussion. And back to the use cases section where we're talking about events, something like the pandemic could help push that level, too, because there just becomes a use case where more folks or stakeholders it affects.

I did just want to mention that you're going through this process because we may update what it looks like to get into Version 3 and even Version 4 because we don't know what's happening next year or the year after. I'll stop there.

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

That's a good point, Matt. Thank you. I'd like to throw this out. We talk about road maps and we talk about our leveling. Would it be worth considering a recommendation that comment Level 1 and Level 2 reflect the horizon timeline so the industry can start seeing if something is a Level 2 and that's within a 24 month horizon? If something is a Level 1, that's within a three year horizon and comment level is to be determined. That would take the place of a formal road map and still provide some vision into future based upon existing process. I'm just throwing this out. I'd love to hear comments. Would that be helpful? Okay, no. That's okay, too. All right. Steven, do you have any comments?

**Steven Lane**

No. I really appreciate this discussion. Again, I think what we are asking for is specific recommendations of the language in this chart as well as the may, must, and, or aspects of this. I think that keeping this flexible so that it could apply whether you're talking about prioritizing something at any of the levels is a good idea. And I think trusting items. Again, I think one is a no brainer so kind of like three and four, it seems to me those are inherently going to be included when they're making decisions about what goes into draft version next. But, again, we'd really like your specific input so that we can prepare a set of red line proposals to come forward next week. Again, if we finish our work early, we can take a couple of weeks off, which would be just fine with me. I don't get any pride out of meeting every week but I want to make sure that we collect the ideas that are out there to prepare our presentation to HITAC. I asked a question in the chat. Grace, I think, is working on it in text. But maybe, Abby, you can chime in. You both suggested doing some testing.

And I think that was a desktop exercise that you're describing to think through some things and how these would apply. Do you think that's work that you might be able to get to in the next week or two to inform our discussion or is that more of a longer term process?

**Grace Cordovano**

Steven, it's Grace. I'm happy to take a stab at it. I guess where I would probably need support is really understanding the maturity aspects of this. That's not my area of expertise. So, I think learning some of the things that are maybe comment Level 1, Level 2 through draft prioritization, however, I would support maybe with the criteria for leveling and maturity.

**Steven Lane**

I think that's a really good point. And it also speaks to, I think, what Hans was saying. It would be ideal, if resources were not a constraint, for every submitted item to be scored on the website as opposed to just leveled. If ONC could say we put it in this level because it met this, didn't meet that, etc., because I think that would support the community in responding to Grace's points earlier. If somebody can get in there and go, "No, no, no. You said this was in limited test environments or pilots but no, there is, actually, much more than that." And I think there was an assumption on ONC's part that the community would just do that naturally to advocate for items that were at lower levels. And Matt, perhaps you can work with the team a little bit to think about whether that's something that ONC might be willing to do in the next cycle of analysis to put in the why of the leveling for the items. And thank you, Abby and Grace, for offering to go through your exercise as you said. And we can prepare the public comment slide, too, while I'm finishing up this thought.

I lost my thought. So, why don't we go to public comments?





## Public Comment (01:22:17)

### Cassandra Hadley

Operator, can you open the line?

### Operator

Yes. If you would like to make a public comment, please press star 1 on your telephone keypad. A confirmation tone will indicate your line is in the cue. You may press star 2 if you would like to remove your line from the cue. And for participants using speaker equipment, it may be necessary to pick up the handset before pressing the star keys. One moment while we poll for comments. There are no comments at this time.

### Steven Lane

Great. Thank you so much. So, thank you for those of you who have offered to, actually, work through some examples. It would be great if people had a chance to do that this week and come back with some feedback. I really do think we've made substantial progress today in developing our shared understanding. On the blue slide, I don't know if we need red lines so much as perhaps we need just a footnote. I think Mark's interpretation of majority of patients, providers, or events requiring its use is really very informative if we can all agree to that. And I think we'll have a chance to talk with Mike Lipinski about that next week to clarify whether we need Abby's additional language there or if we just need that shared understanding on the blue side. And then, as we've said repeatedly, the orange slide, I think, there are a lot of opportunities for people to make specific suggestions. Please just send those to me and Leslie ideally this week so that we have a chance to think about those.

Actually, Leslie is going to be doing most of the heavy lifting this week because I've got a daughter getting married so I'm going to be a little out of pocket for a while. But, again, really appreciate people digging in and offering specific suggestions. A number of folks on the task force have been really quiet both today and in the past. Denise, you've been quiet. John, Ken, Ricky, Sheryl, I don't think we heard much from you. But we haven't heard from a number of you. Does anybody want to provide some input here? Raise your hand.

### Denise Webb

This is Denise. I don't have anything to add.

### Steven Lane

Great. Thank you, Denise. John, your hand was up momentarily. Was it a mistake? Okay. Great.

### Leslie Kelly Hall

We did hear from Sheryl earlier so that was great. We did hear from Sheryl earlier. So, all of the silence means agreement, right?

### Sheryl Turney

Right.

### Steven Lane

Great. And Denise, from your perspective as HITAC co-chair, you're comfortable with our plan to come back on the 9<sup>th</sup> probably, getting our thoughts together, certainly, no later than our meeting on June 1, which is really only four weeks out. Again, I don't think we need four more meetings to nail this. We'll see how long the conversation with Mike takes next time. Al should be back next week and should be able to contribute as well. But I think if we have some solid red lines, we might be able to pause, at that point. And then, Leslie and I can put together a presentation with the help of the ONC team and maybe have one more meeting to review that together before we make that presentation. And then, after that, we can come back together and scope out what we're going to do for the third phase of our work. The other option, of course,





would be to go try to tackle Task 2A before our June presentation so that we can get Task 2 completely out of the way. Task 2A, of course, is recommendations for either technical or content changes to the On Deck system.

I put in the chat today the link to the prep sheet, which really has the questions and how they're phrased. I know, Grace, you made some comments about some people are going to need some explanation, a primer, some handholding, some support whatever form that takes. But if there are actual changes to the system itself, either how it looks technically or what the questions are, perhaps we would want to tackle those this month and include them in our suggestions in June. So, that brings us to the top of the hour. Anything else, Leslie?

**Leslie Kelly Hall**

No. I think that's good. Thank you, everyone, for your help.

**Steven Lane**

We will see you next week. Thank you all so much.

**Adjourn (01:27:58)**

