HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HITAC) ADOPTED STANDARDS TASK FORCE 2022 MEETING
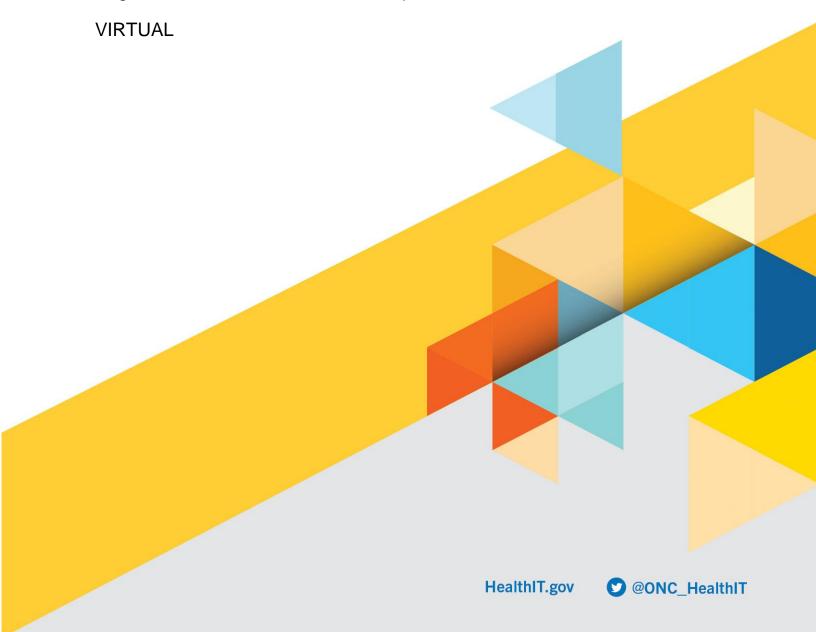
August 23, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

VIRTUAL

Speakers

Name	Organization	Role
Hans Buitendijk	**Oracle Cerner**	**Co-Chair**
Steven (Ike) Eichner	**Texas Department of State Health Services**	**Co-Chair**
Jeffrey Danford	Altera Digital Health	Member
Rajesh Godavarthi	MCG Health, part of the Hearst Health network	Member
Jim Jirjis	HCA Healthcare	Member
John Kilbourne	Department of Veterans Health Affair	Member
Hung S. Luu	Children's Health	Member
Clem McDonald	National Library of Medicine	Member
Deven McGraw	Invitae	Member
Eliel Oliveira	Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin	Member
Vassil Peytchev	Epic	Member
Samantha Pitts	Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine	Member
Alexis Snyder	Individual	Member
Fillipe Southerland	Yardi Systems, Inc.	Member
Ram Sriram	National Institute of Standards and Technology	Member
Raymonde Uy	National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)	Member
Debi Willis	PatientLink Enterprises	Member
Michael Berry	Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology	Designated Federal Officer
Liz Turi	Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology	ONC Staff Lead
Scott Bohon	Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology	ONC Staff Lead

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

Michael Berry
And hello, everyone. I am Mike Berry with ONC, and I would like to thank you for joining the Adopted Standards Task force. As a reminder, your feedback is welcomed, which can be typed in the chat feature to everyone throughout the meeting or can be made verbally during the public comment period that is scheduled at about 11:50 Eastern Time this morning. So, let's begin roll call of our task force members, and when I call your name, please indicate you are here. I will start with our cochairs. Hans Buitendijk?

Hans Buitendijk
Good morning.

Michael Berry
Steve Eichner?

Steve Eichner
Good morning.

Michael Berry
Jeff Danford?

Jeffrey Danford
Good morning.

Michael Berry
Raj Godavarthi?

Rajesh Godavarthi
Good morning.

Michael Berry
Jim Jirjis?

Jim Jirjis
Good morning.

Michael Berry
John Kilbourne.

John Kilbourne
Good morning. John Kilbourne.

Michael Berry
Thank you. Hung Luu is not able to join us today. Clem McDonald? Deven McGraw is also not able to join us today. Eliel Oliveira?

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Eliel Oliveira
I am here, good morning.

Jim Jirjis
Hey, Jim Jirjis just joined.

Michael Berry
Thanks, Jim. Vassil Peytchev? Samantha Pitts? Alexis Snyder?

Alexis Snyder
Good morning.

Michael Berry
Fil Southerland?

Fillipe Southerland
Good morning.

Michael Berry
Ram Sriram?

Ram Sriram
Good morning.

Michael Berry
Raymonde Uy?

Raymonde Uy
Good morning, everyone.

Michael Berry
And, Debi Willis?

Debi Willis
Good morning.

Michael Berry
Good morning to all, thank you so much, and now, please join me in welcoming Hans and Steve for their opening remarks.

Hans Buitendijk
Good morning. Steve, do you want to get started?

ONC Standards Review (00:01:48)

Steve Eichner
Good morning, all. Thank you all for joining us. I think we have a pretty decent agenda today: Clean up a few pieces, go through a little bit of a review of the document. I do want to remind folks, just to elaborate on Mike's comments, about typing in chat. If you select "everyone," it will go into the recording for the meeting and will be visible to all. If you do a directed comment, it will not be included in the recording and will only be seen by the folks that you target. So again, good morning and welcome. Hans?

Hans Buitendijk
All right. Good morning, everybody. We are starting to get down the home stretch, so we really appreciate all the feedback discussion that we have had, and that we can tackle… When you look at the agenda, three topics that we want to make specifically sure that the disposition is in the right direction, and then, we are going to gently step through the draft dispositions, the rest of the document, and the introduction. Hopefully, by the end of today, we will have enough insight that we can begin to put it into the final format and then start to put the dots and the crosses across the Is and Ts there over the next week or so to get that done, so we are looking forward to that, and thank you also to the team of ONC for supporting us, getting us here, and getting us ready to get that final stretch done. So, unless there are any general comments, Steve or otherwise, I think we can jump in. All right. Go to the next slide right after that.

So, with the first one here, Steve, we had the conversation around healthcare-associated infection reports, and we wanted to make sure the final disposition recommendation was going to be to confirm based on some discussion going back and forth. Where do we think this landed? I am going to the section in the draft document, where we had some statements, if it is willing to go there…there we go. I have it in front of myself, but it would be actually great if we could jump to the draft text in the document, and that we can all look at it and see if there is anything from the discussion that we had that is not in line with where we thought this might be heading, and that we can confirm that. There you go. It is a little bit further down. I think you want to go back to the second out of four. It popped up for a moment. There. If you go for "associated," that is actually the word that did better than "healthcare" or "hospital," but "associated" did do it for me. There you go. Now we have it. Can you make it slightly larger?

So, what we think we heard and what we want to confirm was that the disposition was going to be phase out with replacement, and there is a then-most-current, but that particularly suggested that ONC work with NHSN to align on which version or versions to use since there are a couple in play that we actually need to adhere to at times, so I wanted to make sure that the statements made here in particular align with the discussion that was had a couple of weeks ago. If not, Steve, I think we got it.

Steve Eichner
I think we are there.

Hans Buitendijk
Okay, that is straightforward, then. Let's go, then, to the next topic, and I believe that is around open ID, and there was a comment that was open. Raj, I think you were going to have some thoughts around that. I want to make sure that we address that before we finalize this.

Rajesh Godavarthi
Hey, Hans. I sent a note this morning, probably to my old site. I would like to change it to maintain. I did not clear it properly when I initially put the **[inaudible] [00:07:43]**.

Hans Buitendijk
And that is because there is no known more current version out there. That would be the main rationale, I believe, correct?

Rajesh Godavarthi
That is right.

Hans Buitendijk
And then, we can clean up the language with how we have been phrasing it otherwise. Does anybody have a concern with that direction? Okeydoke, then we will update that accordingly, and the last one that we want to particularly pick up was the RSE 5646, and here, there was a suggestion to look at BCP 47 from Vassil and there was a comment from Clem that there were two standards, and in the comments, he also pointed to the registry, IANA, that has registered tags in there, so the question is where we wanted to land here. Vassil may have further information around this, but it appears that BCP is actually referencing two standards, 4646 and 5646, both RSE, and the first one, 4647, that is not listed here is matching of language tags, and RSE 5646 is named "tags for identifying languages," which in turn is referencing the IANA registry, where tags need to be registered to be used.

So, it sounds like there are possibly two considerations. One is to consider shifting over to BCP 47. That would include both, or just stay with 5646. There is no more current one out there as far as we can find, and others might have a more current set of information, and the other consideration may be that while the registry is called out inside 5646, that is the actual listing of the tags that have been registered. Would it be helpful to point to that one more directly as well as in consideration for a next regulatory round? Either one would actually still end up with maintaining 5646 in itself, but the reference could either be done by BCP 47 and include something else as well as the other reference to the registry. So, Vassil and Clem, any notes? I am not sure whether Clem is on the line, but I thought I heard Vassil. Any additional notes or thoughts on what to do here? And, I am not sure whether I see Vassil, and I do not have Clem on the list either.

Any thoughts from anybody else? Perhaps what we could do is then to go with maintain, but as part of the rationale, there is no more current version, but put in a note that ONC would consider and review whether there is a need to consider BCP 47 to include the other, and that could be a consideration, as well as more directly point to the registry for clarity as to where you can find the applicable list of language codes. There is another ISO standard, I think 637 639-2, that is in play as well, so there might be additional clarification that would be helpful to make sure there is unambiguous reference to language codes. It is 639-2. And so, it indicates that there are multiples. Please review that and make sure that they align.

Steve Eichner
Hans, this is Steve. I think there is probably an opportunity to include as a general observation that this may be an opportunity for linkage with information USCDI, or at least consistency with the USCDI.

Hans Buitendijk

Agreed. Do we have that currently open to know what they are pointing to? I did not bring it up yet. Does somebody have that, by chance? I am almost there, but the machine is slightly slow, so then we can reference that specifically. Version 3 preferred language is using IETF 5646, so that is already pointing to that, that is already synced up. The question is if there is any other language that is hidden inside. Nope, there is only one. So, Steve, we can mention the alignment with that, that if anything adjusts, it needs to be aligned with USCDI Version 2.

Steve Eichner
Yeah, I think it is another one of the examples where we are going to float all boats simultaneously.

Hans Buitendijk
Right. Okeydoke, so then, we are heading in the direction of maintain, and I need to go to that one, and then we can see whether that works. The rationale is that no more current version. The second part is consider BCP 47, includes RSE 4656. Let's make sure it is the right number. 4647. And, IANA registry plus ISO, and I want to double check a little bit more exactly that reference to 639 to ensure alignment. I think it is those components. Is that accurate? Did I get that? Okay, if I do not hear any other suggestions, then we will make sure that we are doing something in this direction as we go through. Steve, I think we got it.

Steve Eichner
Well, one of the things that we are still picking up throughout the document is continuing to make changes in the language that says recommending the reference to the standard rather than looking at retiring the standard itself because the standards are maintained by the standards development organizations, not by ONC. ONC has responsibility for managing, recommending, or developing the rules, so that is the logic that we are using in that space.

Hans Buitendijk
So, we need to generally clean up the use of the term "reference" to the standards maintained by an SDO, not by ONC. Is that accurate, Steve?

Steve Eichner
Yeah, and about two thirds, I think, have been converted over. We just need to pick up the last third. One of the other components in the overall document is as we go up to the methodology or the methods section, all the way up at the top.

Hans Buitendijk
Okay. That is in the approach?

Steve Eichner
Yeah, the approach. As we look at the approach we are using, we have made a statement, or this text includes information that we are not recommending a specific standard, but looking at what is most current at the time ONC may be updating the standard, so in a few places, we are looking at a timestamp, not really recommending a standard per se, but we did indicate a potential replacement standard, so we want to make sure we are good with language.

Hans Buitendijk

Right, and most of the places, we should start to see the word "considering" being used, and we need to double check that that is being done consistently everywhere so that it is a consideration, not a recommendation.

Steve Eichner
Hans, we might even actually call specific attention to that, so that is highlighting the idea of a consideration as being different than a recommendation. That is an intentional choice, and not as a substitute term.

Hans Buitendijk
So, we need to update the approach with that so that it is clear there, and then we need to make sure that that is done throughout the document. So, Steve, do you have other general comments before we start to gently go through?

Steve Eichner
I think those are the big general pieces. Again, it should be fairly easy to modify or make sure that we are reflecting those concepts. Is there any feedback overall from other task force members? Okeydoke. Steve, do you want to lead us, then, through scrolling down gently and seeing whether anybody has any other comments on the draft that we have?

Steve Eichner
Well, this has got Control 3, which is great, so do we want to go screen by screen, or do task force members have any particular piece of note offhand that they know is a particular issue? We did go through the document, and we note that a few folks did go through and make some editorial changes that are very much appreciated. We have had a few typographical errors and spacing issues that will get cleaned up, but as we go through, I guess let's go through each page slowly. I am not going to read it aloud, looking at USCDI, phase out with replacement, and again, replace or consider replacement with the most current version next time ONC reviews or proposes updates, similar for CDT, again, keeping current, keeping aligned. If you are going to make that, let's make "ONC phase out."

Hans Buitendijk
Yes. Just a general note on the wording that we are considering putting in there. If you go to the next one as an example, CPT, it says recommend phase out. Before you change that, is that ONC is recommending the phase-out, that is the disposition, that is the recommendation, but that the considering in the next line, "considers adopting," is where the term is used to say what the replacement would be. That is where the consideration comes in, not the recommendation, because we are asked to recommend total disposition, but we were not asked to recommend what to replace it with, so that is where the term "consideration" comes in. Does that work? Otherwise, I think we are weakening the recommendation in the space that we were asked to recommend.

Steve Eichner
I would agree with that. The consideration is more along the lines of the task force identifying some possible candidates as of today's date or as of the date we looked at it that might be possible…actually, picking one among many, but at least a quick survey of the landscape to identify potential candidates.

Hans Buitendijk

And we need to make sure in the approach that we clarify why we used the word "recommend" in context of the charter of the task force, the disposition, and consider to take that as something to put into the list of items to think about. And then, we use the other term "during the next relevant regulatory updates" because we do not know when that is. It could be next week, next month, next year, we do not know, so that is the critical one to indicate. That is when we suggest to think about it, but we do not know when that is, and we still can see that you see the term "update and rulemaking." We will go in and end up with the one that is the reference, whichever one it is, but that will be done consistently.

Steve Eichner
I guess another piece from a wordsmithing perspective is it is a little awkward in looking at phase-out and replacing the version of whatever it is in the CURES Act final rule. Is it the current CURES Act final rule, or what is the best way of referencing it so it is recognized as the existing rule? Maybe the word should be "existing."

Hans Buitendijk
At the same point in time, there is only one CURES Act final rule that is in effect. There is no prior version, there is no new version, so I think this time around, it works that you can do it without current or existing. In the next round, in three years, if it is still called CURES Act Update 2025 or whatever, then there is another CURES Act final rule.

Steve Eichner
Yeah.

Hans Buitendijk
I think we can get away with it this time, but it is perfectly okay if we want to make that explicitly clear if we want to say in the current instead of just the CURES Act final rule.

Steve Eichner
I suggest that is a wordsmithing issue, not a conceptual issue.

Hans Buitendijk
Yup.

Clem McDonald
This is Clem. Could I just make a comment?

Steve Eichner
Absolutely.

Clem McDonald
The challenge with ICD and CM…not the challenge. We do not know if they will make another one, and ICD-11 is kind of looming on the horizon, which could replace it, so I do not know whether that has an impact on all this or not, but I do not think ICD-10 CM will have a new version. That is the rumor I have heard.

Hans Buitendijk
So, perhaps if we hedge our bets there and say "the most current version or a more current CD version" so that we couch it that way.

Steve Eichner
Yeah.

Clem McDonald
Actually, there is a typo on the CD. There should be an I in front of it so it is ICD-10.

Hans Buitendijk
Something like that?

Clem McDonald
Yeah.

Hans Buitendijk
Okay, and we will go to the other areas where that might occur, because I think ICD might be listed twice, but we will make a note there to fix that.

Clem McDonald
It is actually the next item.

Steve Eichner
Well then, I might as well just fix it there. And, one of the things that we have not made a recommendation about… Clem, the floor is yours.

Clem McDonald
I do not know whether ICD-10 BCS is going to get a new version or gets new versions in general. Does anyone on the call know? I just do not know.

Hans Buitendijk
Would you think that it might need total replacement of that or that it is totally absorbed by something else that we can reference as a potential? So, just to offer all the variety of what could happen.

Clem McDonald
I am completely ignorant. I cannot help you.

Hans Buitendijk
Okay, so perhaps we can leave it at this, and we recognize that if something else came up in the meantime, if it is going to be next month, it is different than if this is going to come up next year.

Clem McDonald
Yeah, it may not be absolutely perfect. We only know what we know, and we can only know what is really in development right now, not what is around the corner.

Hans Buitendijk
Correct.

Clem McDonald
Minor typo in the last entry of PCS 2020, "a more certified code system," for whoever has got control. It is just missing an "a" in front of the word "more."

Hans Buitendijk
Okay. Clem, does this address your question or comment? Are you good with it? All right, I think we can keep on going, Steve, on through the next.

Steve Eichner
Again, looking at RxNorm, phase out and replace with the current version. This is one of those standards that is incrementally improved as well from a content perspective, not necessarily from a format perspective. I think there is an expected expansion of the contents of the code set, and one of the things that we did not really do through the document is call attention to those kinds of components. I am not sure if we need to or not. I think with the knowledge that we have, this is probably the best context we can provide as to why this should be considered.

Steve Eichner
Should expanding vocabularies between rule changes be highlighted as a secondary consideration?

Hans Buitendijk
I think we already made that comment overall, and we did that in here in the statement "while also acknowledging the need to recognize use of code sets," no, it is the first part of that second paragraph, "enabling HIT to be certified to a more current version of a code system as it becomes available." So, I think that one was intending to have that statement explicitly in every line, just to make sure.

Steve Eichner
Yes. I was also thinking just for a moment about differentiating or calling specific attention to vocabulary expansion versus a format change. In other words, to a certain extent, looking at expanding the vocabulary of prescriptions is separate from changing a format.

Hans Buitendijk
I am trying to understand. Maybe it is a different use of that that I am only using it for the other standards. These are all vocabulary standards, so it would just be the vocabulary.

Steve Eichner
Right.

Hans Buitendijk
Are you expecting that with RxNorm, the codes are potentially changing format?

Steve Eichner

No, I do not foresee that they are, but again, I am just differentiating a code system versus the content. When I think "system," I tend to think more along the lines of format rather than content.

Hans Buitendijk

Oh. Now I understand. That might be, then, a terminology that we need to introduce and decide which one to use. In the HL7 standards environment, "code system" is used to represent things like SNOMED, LOINC, RxNorm, etc. It is the list of all the codes' vocabulary that is available, and then, it gives us the term "value set" that in the context of a very specific implementation guide typically, or the standard itself less frequently, then it says in this context for that particular attribute, the code system is constrained to this value set that is applicable in this context. So, the term "code system" is used there as the name of that list of SNOMED codes, so that is why, but if we need to introduce that to say that code system and vocabulary sets or something like that are synonymous in this context…

Steve Eichner

I think that would probably be a good idea.

Hans Buitendijk

Okay. I will make a note up top to introduce that term because it has a very specific HL7 meaning that might not be used elsewhere always.

Steve Eichner

Yeah, it does not hurt to level set there. An advantage of being clear for a couple of lines. Looking at SNOMED CT, again, looking at phased out with replacing with then-most-current version, no real surprise. And, because SNOMED was referenced twice in regulation, we have it again looking at level setting, and do we have a comment or a rationale that says there should be consistency in SNOMED versions referenced? Yeah. That is in that last paragraph. And do we have a similar phraseology in the second SNOMED disposition? Let's go down one block. Again, we have the same reference between… I am not wordsmithing. We might take out the "in particular" because there are other places where that is relevant. It is not really unique to SNOMED. The same thing would apply pretty much for any of the vocabularies. We do not want to shift vocabularies within standards. That could be confusing. Continuing down through SNOMED again… And we can go down into the identifying language piece that we looked at a few minutes ago, so we will finalize that language. Looking at LOINC, replace with new standard as it becomes available.

Hans Buitendijk

And Clem, to make sure there are no interests to change LOINC in track, correct? It keeps on going. There is no other alternative in sight. Do you think that ICD-11 is going to come into play there?

Clem McDonald

Well, Version 12 from July 2012 is a bit old, right?

Hans Buitendijk

Oh yeah, but from here on out, next time around, is there any merging with other vocabularies that we should highlight here, or it is LOINC is on its track, and there are no known plans, other than increased and improved versions.

Clem McDonald
Yeah, I think you just have to update it to its new version.

Hans Buitendijk
Yeah, that was just published, again. Okay, then we can leave it with this, that it should have the then-most-current version, and keep on going with adopting the even-more-current version as you are past that. Okay.

Steve Eichner
And, looking at CVX, again, phase out and replacement. Any comments or concerns? Looking at payment topology…

Clem McDonald
Well, just to clarify, there are two sets of codes for vaccine. I think it is CVX and CMX, if I have it right. One of them is brand names or something, and the other is generic. Whatever it is, I think we should be aware of the two and point them correctly. I think it is CMX and CVX, but I am not sure. Does anybody on the call know?

Hans Buitendijk
At least in all the conversations recently on the vaccine administrations and codes coming out, it is CPT, CVX, and NDC. Those are the three that are…

Clem McDonald
Maybe MVC might be the other one.

Hans Buitendijk
Yeah, and NDC would then be additional because it would not be instead of, so the question, then, here is that we only looked here at CVX itself, and that is where it just stays current with the most current version. The question is that NDC… Let me just double check. I do not think that was anywhere in the standards, unless you go into the implementation guide. I think if you get the VXU Version 2 messages, that is where that starts to pop up as a reference, but you are now inside. Is there a need to bubble that up? I have not heard, at least, that there is a concern, has been used, everybody is using it, most current IS is driving it effectively. I am not sure whether we need to make a comment right here around that, that something is missing. Clem, do you think we should? Others, any thoughts around that to mention, at least, NDC?

Clem McDonald
Well, new vaccines come along. I do not know whether that version includes everything that is now out.

Hans Buitendijk
It does until next week, then there is another newer version coming out. It is going very rapidly right now with the vaccines.

Clem McDonald
Okay, I am wrong.

Hans Buitendijk

And they all have to be adopted. They all have to be adopted. It all falls under the **[inaudible] [00:39:27]**. Nobody is staying behind there, and if they are, they are really seriously out of sync.

Steve Eichner
So, are we good?

Hans Buitendijk
Yeah, we are good, I think.

Steve Eichner
So, looking at payment topology, again, phase out with replacement/phase out entirely. My understanding is that there has been more than just a vocabulary change since Version 5.0. There has also been a bit of a format change, that it is not just an extension, and there is additional mapping required or a change required.

Hans Buitendijk
Is that in the actual exchange standard implementation guide?

Steve Eichner
There is not really an implementation guide posted with a specific version implementation. There is an implication that they have changed the hierarchy.

Hans Buitendijk
Huh. So, the structure of the content has changed. That would then indicate that we can still use this statement, or do you feel that we need to have additional statement around this?

Steve Eichner
It might not be bad just to include something along that space, as there may be a structural change, so consultation with stakeholders may be valuable.

Hans Buitendijk
Okay. I will type a note, and then we can clean it up.

Steve Eichner
Clean it up. I am not honestly sure who uses the standard for what purposes. I know it is tagged as a public health data standard, but I am not sure who is using it for what. It feels as though it is more of an all-payer claims database kind of thing. So, a public interest, but not necessarily by public health.

Hans Buitendijk
Okay. So, does the sentence I dropped in provides enough to build the rest around?

Steve Eichner
Yes.

Hans Buitendijk

Okay.

Steve Eichner
Looking at NDC and looking at replacing it with a more current version for the linker, any feedback?

Clem McDonald
NDC just did or is about to do some corrections or systematizing of their codes. Do you know about that Hans, if it is coming out or if it is done already?

Hans Buitendijk
Not under that term. Jeff, have you seen anything?

Clem McDonald
They are going to clean up some parts that are a little bit messy, and I do not know the timeframe.

Hans Buitendijk
Okay. I would think at that point, if it is retiring codes and introducing new ones to then be more appropriate, then that would fall under a regular version update process because that happens frequently anyway, that codes are being retired that are not valid anymore for one reason or another, either errors that were made and then need to be fixed, which we have seen, and otherwise. Jeff, I am not sure whether you have seen or heard anything there. I have not.

Jeffrey Danford
I have not heard anything about it, but you are right, this would fall under "We are updating because we are doing cleanup."

Steve Eichner
And to hedge the bet again, if you look at the third line or rationale, NDC linker, a suitable replacement service, or a suitable replacement tool. Last line, first paragraph, rationale.

Hans Buitendijk
That is primarily around the historical so that whatever happens, what is documented is documented.

Steve Eichner
Right, and I was suggesting that if we are unsure about whether the NDC linker is going to be replaced by something else, if there is a paragraph above, rather than saying the current version of the NDC linker, NDC linker, most current version of linker, or replacement system, right?

Hans Buitendijk
So, something along those lines.

Steve Eichner
Well, actually, I was looking at the next paragraph up.

Hans Buitendijk

Oh. I thought you were in the second paragraph. I will move up. Okay, we will move this there, and then do that.

Steve Eichner
That way, we are saying we are aware of the potential replacement NDC linker, but if there is something else that comes along that is really the replacement, replace it with that. Do not get stuck on the label, basically.

Hans Buitendijk
Correct, yeah. I have not heard anything that there is talk about other than the content changes that Clem mentioned that may be in flight. I am not sure if that means that there is a new tool, code system, or linker out there that does it, but I am okay with this being added in this case. I would be cautious putting that in other places.

Steve Eichner
Right. This is one of the special things where we know that cores change. We do not know about Part B. There is a possibility. Hedge the bet.

Hans Buitendijk
Okay.

Steve Eichner
Looking at CDC Race and Ethnicity Code Set Version 1, we know that that is a little bit on the aged side, so we are looking at phasing out with replacement. Not surprising. Again, replacing it with a current code system as appropriate, and falls under the general aegis of looking at alignment. Do we need to include more specific pieces about alignment with things like the USCDI year?

Hans Buitendijk
Perhaps what we should do…

Steve Eichner
It is in the first paragraph, under "rationale."

Hans Buitendijk
Perhaps in general, we can still make the comment to align with USCDI, or USDCI aligns with the standards, but that they are in sync.

Steve Eichner
After that sentence, there is value in using consistent standards.

Hans Buitendijk
If we do that in the general, overall approach as a consideration, then we may not have to repeat it in a variety of places.

Steve Eichner

Yeah.

Hans Buitendijk
And we could do that in the vocabulary section, not just in the approach, but I will move it a little bit lower.

Steve Eichner
Looking at HL7 Version 3 standard, that is for administrative gender, null flavor, so we have a spacing issue in the label. I do not know if null is supposed to have a space between it or not.

Hans Buitendijk
There is no space.

Steve Eichner
I did not think it did.

Hans Buitendijk
It is the term.

Steve Eichner
Well, we will clean up the language on the 21st Century CURES Act at that.

Hans Buitendijk
Yeah, "21st Century" can be dropped.

Steve Eichner
Here, we said something different, whether it is a newer version of the standard.

Hans Buitendijk
I will mark it for consistency, then we just double check that.

Steve Eichner
Yeah, and there is a spacing issue down in the second-to-last line, "project does."

Jeffrey Danford
There is a capitalization issue on "CURES Act final rule." The I is capitalized there. There we go.

Steve Eichner
Hans, are there other issues for this item? Let's move to the next. OMB standards for maintaining, collecting, and presenting federal data on race and ethnicity, specific to Policy Directive No. 15 as revised October 30th, 1997. And actually, I am reflecting… It probably might be either maintain or phase out, depending upon what OMB actually releases, because of the words "as revised" in the label of the standard. In other words, if OMB continues to have it be OMB 15 as updated, then there may not need to be a statutory or a regulatory updated language because the standard behind it would actually be updated anyway, if that makes sense. The fundamental purpose behind it or the concept is to be current with existing OMB practices however they are referenced. Is that acceptable?

Hans Buitendijk

Yes. The question is that also depends on all the other ones when a revision is being published, so is that really part of the general phrasing that we have? So, we can look at that, but yeah, I agree that there is something unique here. If they are not going to put anything out, then there is no need to consider that.

Steve Eichner

Our understanding is that they are working on it right now, we just do not know the label. It is because of the way this particular one is labeled in text because of the "as revised." It throws a little bit of a twist into it, but if it is the same document from the OMB's end of it, all the actual language of the rule, if it is as revised, it still incorporates the new revision, so you have updated it without updating it.

Hans Buitendijk

Okeydoke. I am okay with that. I will fine-tune it.

Steve Eichner

Unified Code of Units of Measure, Version 1. Again, this is looking at phasing out and replacement, again, trying to keep current if there have been any changes. Are there any concerns? Looking at the next one, E123, we do have a spacing issue, perhaps, between it and the preceding one, just in general. Looks like there is a page break, but I think that is more coincidental than a forced page break. Something to look at. Then, looking at maintaining the telephone number standard, we are not aware of a replacement. Same thing for E164, looking at maintaining it. Again, we are not aware of a replacement system or an updated system. Now transitioning to the next grouping, looking at general data access standards, HL7 Release Version 4.0, October 30th, looking at maintaining. It is too early to consider evolving to something else. Any comments or suggestions? Okay, let's move to the next.

FHIR US CORE Implementation Guide, Standard for Trial Use, Version 3.1.1. Looking at phasing out with replacement, again, looking at keeping current with what is available the next time the final rule regulations are updated, and looking at alignment with the USCDI referenced at the same time. Looking at HL7 bulk data access, framework implementation, looking at replacing it with the most current…sorry, I jumped ahead. Bulk data access, phase out with replacement, then-most-current version during the next regulatory update. A question: "Are we going to have any compatibility issues between US CORE implementation for FHIR and bulk data access?" Hans?

Hans Buitendijk

I do not have any comments there. I think it is straightforward. Whatever is available next should be considered.

Jeffrey Danford

Bulk data is more about the how rather than the what, so it should not impact it.

Hans Buitendijk

Correct. Same data, different physical format to make it more efficient to transmit.

Steve Eichner

HL7 SMART application launch framework implementation guide, Release Version 1.0.

Hans Buitendijk
That one needs to be marked.

Steve Eichner
Again, let's keep it focused on keeping current. Moving into the next grouping, care coordination standards, HL7 CDA R2 IG, CDA templates for clinical notes. R2.1, looking at phasing out with replacement and looking at evolving with the next regulatory update, assuming that the C-CDA containing guides support the USCDI at the same time. Any issues, concerns? Looking at the next item, Implementation Guide Release 2, consolidated CDA templates for clinical notes. Again, here, we are looking at maintaining, as there is not a more current version that we are aware of. Any questions or concerns?

Hans Buitendijk
Not here.

Steve Eichner
HL7 Implementation Guide for Storage Consolidation, looking at maintaining. I will give folks a moment to read the rationale. We might clean up the text on that just a little bit, looking at the generation language, but not changing the theme, basically stating that only the then-current standard should be used to generate files.

Hans Buitendijk
So, if there are any suggestions on how to clean up, we can do that offline, maybe more clearly.

Steve Eichner
Looking at the next item, any comments, concerns? If not, we will go to the next item. Direct project, ONC applicability statement for securing all transport, Version 1.2, August 2015, looking at phasing out with replacement, so we are adopting the current version of the next update. Do we need for it to be ANSI-approved?

Hans Buitendijk
We do not need to. It has not been before, but it helps also solidify the strength and the stability of it.

Steve Eichner
This is, again, the only place where we have called out ANSI approval.

Hans Buitendijk
And it is the only one that is in that state of moving into a version. Other ones have been and continue to be, but other ones are not known to shift from non-ANSI to ANSI.

Steve Eichner
That might be worth just noting, calling out the exception, not questioning it, but just noting why we have noted it here and not in other places. Again, kind of addressing consistency throughout, so we are explaining why we have done it or why we have referenced it here, not other places.

Hans Buitendijk
Something along these lines, then, will work that further.

Steve Eichner
Work it through?

Hans Buitendijk
Yup.

Steve Eichner
Moving to the next item, ONC Implementation Guide for Direct Edge Protocols, Version 1.1, June 25th, 2014. This is another phase out with replacement, looking at modernizing to the version for implementation that is most current the next time ONC updates the regulation. We have noted there is a version in process. Any questions or concerns? Moving to the next, IHE IT Infrastructure Technical Framework, Volume 2B, ITITF 2B. Again, this is another phase out with replacement, moving to the most-currently-available standards or considering most-currently-available standards. Any questions or concerns? Moving to the next one, NCPDP Script, Standard Implementation Guide Version 2017-071. This is another phase out with replacement, looking at modernizing to the more current version. We have noted a concern with PDMP and suggest the opportunity for alignment.

One piece of note about that last sentence. PDMP was really evolving at the time the 2017 standards were adopted, so there is little history of looking at evolving script in consideration of PDMP, with the exception of the 2017 standards, and there was some discussion about what standards should be used to support PDMP at that point. So, that last sentence would really apply only to the 2017-071 implementation version. So, where do we want to go with that?

Hans Buitendijk
How would you like to enhance the phrasing?

Steve Eichner
I think we can handle it all fine, but just recognizing it was not addressed in the 2017. We could just note it and I will fix it, recognizing that PDMP was only a federal requirement in the relatively recent history.

Hans Buitendijk
I think it makes sense.

Steve Eichner
Looking at Public Health Exchange Standards, HL7 2.51 and Patient Guide for Immunization Messaging, Release 1.5, looking at maintaining, as there is not a replacement currently in play. Any comments, suggestions, or questions? Looking at the PHIN Messaging Guide for Syndromic Surveillance, phasing out with replacement, based on what we learned about a new version coming out that really corrects some of the errors, omissions, or variances from earlier versions. Any questions or concerns? Looking at ELR Release 1, suggesting phasing out with replacement, discussion about LRI and recognizing that there needs to be investment consideration with stakeholders and the like because a substantial portion of the

lift here is that receiving systems are not necessarily certified technology, so this is a major lift area that impacts not just certified technology directly, but a wide range of other systems. So, the potential for expansion is there, but needs to be done carefully and in concert with other planning activities.

Hans Buitendijk
And is it sufficiently clear in the way it is written that the way that the current versions are written allows for pre-adoptions of subsets of that, like for enabling exchange of data relative to COVID reporting and pandemic reporting in general through ELRs? So, there are opportunities to not adopt everything, which has advantages, but to pre-adopt portions of it, and therefore fit it on top of what is already in place, and therefore ease the transition. Is that clear enough that that is one of the reasons as well why it should be considered? If not, we can clarify that more.

Steve Eichner
Any questions or concerns?

Hans Buitendijk
If not, then we are good.

Steve Eichner
Looking at the ELR certification document for technology certification, this is a page from the errata document. I guess technically, if their next version does not have an errata document, we do not need it.

Hans Buitendijk
Correct. There was a little bit of a back-and-forth. Do we call that phase out and retire or phase out and replace because something else is replacing it because it is in there?

Steve Eichner
It is either maintain, phase out with replacement, or both, kind of one of those "Until such time as the predecessor item is retired, you need to maintain this."

Hans Buitendijk
So, maybe then **[inaudible] [01:09:39]** more.

Steve Eichner
Because its presence is dependent on the predecessor. If you have retired or replaced the predecessor, then you do not need to maintain the errata.

Hans Buitendijk
Are we comfortable, then, with that adjustment in a disposition?

Steve Eichner
I will clean up the rationale to reflect that explanation. Someone tag that with "Steve to do" and I will do it. Looking at reporting data to cancer registries, looking at maintaining, as there does not seem to be any replacement. You might take one more pass through CDC to see if there has been a change, and someone can reach out to maybe Sanjeev Tandon for help. Looking at the next item, HL7 Implementation Guide to

CDA Release 2, HAI, we discussed earlier today. Are we good with that? Do we need any other input? Looking at the next item, HL7 Implementation Guide for Healthcare Surveys, phase out with replacement. Should we call attention to collaboration with CDC? That is the really the source of the healthcare survey questions because local/state public health does not play a role in defining the standard or collecting that data directly. Obviously, healthcare providers and reporters do. CDC is the primary consumer of that data.

Hans Buitendijk
By the way, the screen disappeared. Ah, it is back.

Steve Eichner
Do we need to call any attention to that space, or are we good with the language that is there?

Hans Buitendijk
I think we are good.

Steve Eichner
Okay. Moving into the clinical quality measure reporting standards, HL7 CDA Release 2, IG for Quality Reporting, phase out with replacement, again, keeping current with most-recently-developed or adopted standards. Any feedback? I think we have maybe just a minute or two more before we need to go to public comment. Looking at Quality Reporting Document Architecture, Category 3 IG for CDA, Release 2, again, looking at phasing out when a new version becomes available and is ready for adoption. Looking at the same thing for the next one, which is the errata document, we can use the same language that we use for the errata document for ELR to explain that logic, so let's tag that because when the previous line gets replaced, you may not need the errata document anymore.

Looking at the Medicare Provider Crosswalk, again, that is looking at another phase out with replacement. Any comments or suggestions? Let's move to the next one, CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture, Category 1, Possible Quality Reporting, IG for 2020, phase out with replacement. Again, keep current with what the current releases are and the next opportunity for updating. Same thing for the next, which is Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture, Category 3, Eligible Clinicians and Eligible Professional Programs, IG for 2020. Again, same piece, actually, of note, probably eligible professionals will no longer be included because Medicaid reporting will have ended by that point, but that is perhaps a more trivial note, although I guess we could highlight that or recognize that. Is that a good idea, folks?

Hans Buitendijk
I am good with that.

Steve Eichner
Okay, and I think we are going to have to stop here so that we have got an opportunity for public comment. We may come back to privacy and security standards if we have time today. If not, we will hold it for next week. Mike, I give the floor back to you for public comment, please.

Public Comment (01:16:25)

Michael Berry

Sure, absolutely. We are going to open up our call today for any public comments. If you are on Zoom and would like to make a comment, please use the hand raise function, which is located on the Zoom toolbar at the bottom of your screen. If you are on the phone only, press *9 to raise your hand, and once called upon, press *6 to mute or unmute your line. So, let's pause for a moment to see if we have anyone who wants to raise their hand. In the meantime, I just wanted to flag that next week's task force meeting was moved from our usual Tuesday spot to Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. We had to adjust the schedule for next week to accommodate another HITAC task force that is operating at the same time. I am not seeing any hands raised, so I will turn it back to Steve and Hans.

Hans Buitendijk
Steve, I think we can keep on going, and we might get to the end of it.

Steve Eichner
Okay, let's go back to the list, please, whoever is sharing. Thank you. Okay, looking at privacy and security standards, HL7 Implementation Guide, Data Segmentation for Privacy. Again, I would expect this should be a phase out with replacement.

Hans Buitendijk
That is a good question. It is not clear that there is a new version in the making, and in order to make privacy policies and patient consent directives to really work, there are a number of other things needed to actually complement this, so it is not that it needs to go away, so maintain is probably the right thing because I do not think it is going to change, but we need other things to make it work. Interesting. I just deleted the phase out with replace and phase out entirely, but it does not show yet. Maybe a network challenge.

Steve Eichner
We can see your edit and we can see your mouse moving in real time.

Hans Buitendijk
That is not mine. But I got the note, I changed it to maintain, so I think you can keep on going.

Steve Eichner
We might amend that text a little bit too.

Liz Turi
It looks like Google is not fully connected here, even though Zoom and everything else is find, so there is something going on, but I cannot edit currently.

Steve Eichner
So, network time protocol, looking at maintaining because we are not aware of a replacement. Any concerns?

Hans Buitendijk
It looks like you are back again with the display.

Steve Eichner

Annex A of Federal Information Processing Standards, FIPS, phasing out with replacement. Any questions or concerns? Looking at ASTM E2147-18, Standards for Audit and Disclosure Logs, looking at maintaining. Looking at open ID, as we talked about earlier today, we are at a maintain. The rationale will expand a little bit, but looking at the no-more-hurt version, and Secure Hash Standard 180-420-18, phasing out with replacement, again, with the notation that SHA-1 needs to be disallowed regardless, as it is today. Any comments, suggestions, questions? Looking at accessibility standards, web content accessibility guidelines, WCAG 2.0 Level A, phase out with replacement. Mike, have we heard back from OCR?

Michael Berry
Go ahead, Liz.

Liz Turi
Yeah, I was going to say… They do not have any other initiatives that may change our recommendation, so consistency is good.

Steve Eichner
Okay, great. Thank you.

Hans Buitendijk
So, should we then remove that sentence and just leave it as a simple phase out with replacement, then-most-current, but no need to point to OCR?

Steve Eichner
I think it would always be good to point to OCR on alignment.

Hans Buitendijk
Because we do not know whether, a year from now, **[inaudible – crosstalk] [01:22:05]**.

Steve Eichner
Exactly.

Hans Buitendijk
Okay, fair.

Steve Eichner
Same thing for the next one, looking at certification process standards, ISO/IEC 17025, that 2017E federal requirements, looking at maintaining. So, our rationale does not align here. Our rationale is our replacement rationale.

Hans Buitendijk
So, shall we change it? We are not aware of a more current version. In other cases, we kept it to maintain. Shall we change the rationale to maintain unless **[inaudible] [01:22:55]** what we have and adjust that statement a little bit more? Because we do state "as it becomes available," which we did not state in other places, so we need to make that more clear, that we are not aware of anything, but unless something comes out, maintain it.

Steve Eichner

I think that is right. I think that is consistent with things we have said other places.

Hans Buitendijk

So, maybe this…

Steve Eichner

This one was just a little more abrupt than the other in looking at a newer version about saying the task force has not been able to find a replacement at this time. And the last one, ISO/IEC 17056 2012, maintain, again, the same logic. That being said, we are at the end of our list.

Hans Buitendijk

All right!

Steve Eichner

I would like to encourage folks to please, as homework for next week, take another look at the document in draft and make any changes that you feel necessary. Mike, Liz, can you give us a suggestion as to when you would like to move the document over into the final template so we can lock this and give you enough time to move it over?

Michael Berry

I think it will probably be best, since we have three more meetings after this one concludes, if we could finish up the draft and the Google doc that is currently displayed, and we can transition to the actual recommendations template, and maybe even display that next week if we are far enough along to show everybody that.

Steve Eichner

Okay, so I would like to lock it so you have an opportunity to move it over. Do you want to close it Monday morning for transition?

Michael Berry

I do not know if that will give Liz enough time to transition all the information.

Steve Eichner

I want to be respectful of her time and give her as much time as she needs. That is kind of the question. Liz, when would you like it locked?

Liz Turi

Yeah, Monday morning is fine, because that then gives two days until Wednesday's meeting.

Steve Eichner

That is true.

Hans Buitendijk

Okeydoke. So then, I saw the note also from Raymonde that he is going to be looking at that. Others will as well. We have some cleanup to do of the language in the variety **[inaudible] [01:26:06]**. I think that is a reasonable time overall, and then we will start to do the remaining of the review in the final document to make sure that everything flows, everything is properly aligned, etc., and it looks like we are tracking well against the deadline, so that is good.

Steve Eichner
I would like to thank all the task force members for their participation. It has been a pleasure working with you to this point. I think we have put together some really good resources that I think ONC will appreciate, and I want to recognize the ONC staff and consultants for all the work that they have put in to help us get this far. Hans, do you want to say any closing words? Then we will hand it to Mike to close out.

Hans Buitendijk
I would like to echo what you just said and thank everybody, and next week, we will be starting with the final review in the official document and make sure that we have everything properly addressed, so I am looking forward to that. We have gone a long way in a very short period of time, which is fantastic, and we just have a little bit more left to be done, so, thank you very much, and talk to you next week.

Steve Eichner
Mike, can you close us out?

Michael Berry
Sure. Thanks, everybody, and we will see you next Wednesday. Have a good day.

Hans Buitendijk
Take care.

Adjourn (01:27:38)