CDA for Common Document Types (CDA4CDT)

January 24, 2007

Summary

This project will develop CDA Implementation Guides (IGs) for common types of electronic healthcare documents and will bring them through the HL7 ballot process. The standardization of these narrative notes will enlarge and enrich the flow of data into the electronic health record and speed the development of interoperable clinical document repositories for use within the enterprise and regional and national networks. This rapid development project bridges the gap between narrative documents produced through dictation and the structured, computable records within an EHR.

Project Description

Scope: Development of an implementation guide or series of guides for common types of clinical documents based on HL7's Clinical Documentation Architecture, Release 2 (CDA R2). The implementation guide(s) will be submitted for ballot through HL7's Structured Documents Technical Committee (SDTC). Initial work will focus on the SOAP note, History & Physical, Discharge Summary and Progress note – determining the sequence and extent of document types is a first order of business for the project. End-user supporting documentation and training materials will be developed as funding is available. To quickly establish a widely deployable set of document types, the level of computable coding will stay at the section level (per the Care Record Summary) except where there are templates available for reuse from the Continuity of Care Document (CCD).

Goal: Using these implementation guides, transcription documents can be imported directly into the EHR and aggregated along with EHR summaries such as the Continuity of Care Document (CCD) in document registries/repositories and document management systems for exchange, reporting and longitudinal analysis. Many tens of thousands of such documents are produced each day. This project will complete the framework required to integrate these notes into interoperable, accessible and ultimately computable electronic records.

Through conformance with these IGs, the health information management profession can define best practices, expressed in a standard format and implemented atop the CDA R2 model. This will guide the collection of key data elements in a narrative report and validate conformance to ensure adoption at the national and eventually international level.

Method: The project will evaluate the most common types of documents and set priorities based on demand, difficulty and potential for reuse across the emerging

---

National Health Information Network. Precedents and patterns (some in the form of HL7 clinical statements and templates) will be evaluated and adopted from these sources:

- ASTM's *Standard Specifications for Healthcare Document Formats* (E2184.02) (headings and subheadings used in medical and associated with specific report types)

- Clinical LOINC document and section codes

- HL7 ASIG CDA R2 Attachment for Clinical Notes

- HL7 Care Record Summary (CRS)

- HL7/ASTM Continuity of Care Document (CCD)

- IHE profiles, including the content profiles within Patient Care Coordination

- MHS/DoD-VA-IM-IT Demo Project Discharge Summary & SOAP HL7 CDA R2 Implementation Guides

- Sample CDA documents developed for local provider institutions (Mayo Clinic, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, New York Presbyterian and others)

- Sample CDA documents developed for national and regional exchange outside the US (Finland, Germany, Greece, New Zealand, elsewhere)

- Non-CDA sample documents supplied by participating providers and vendors

Project management and development

Alschuler Associates, LLC is developing this project plan with initial support from M*Modal Technologies. The American Association for Medical Transcription (AAMT) and the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) are founding partners in this project. concensus

This plan calls for development of a coalition of interested parties to fund and support this work through participation in the consensus-based development of the draft guides. The first stage of the project will build this coalition, extending it to other organizational and commercial participants and securing funding for the completion of the project. The second stage of work will draft the implementation guides. The third stage will submit them to the HL7 SDTC for ballot and will support the ballot process as required. As funding is available, the project will develop end-user guides and training material.

Initial decisions will determine the list of document types, the order and priority in which they are developed, and the ballot and publication format—for example whether a single IG should be written with a number of sections, one for each type of document, or whether each document type should have its own stand-alone guide and will recommend the level of balloting required (normative, informative, draft-standard-for-trial-use).