Consensus-driven Standards on Social Determinants of Health

HL7 WGM | Sept 2022
Gravity Project

A collaborative public-private initiative launched in May 2019 with the goal to develop consensus-driven data standards to support the collection, use, and exchange of social determinants of health (SDOH) data.
Project Scope

• Develop data standards to represent and exchange patient level SDOH data documented across four clinical activities:
  • Screening
  • Assessment/diagnosis
  • Goal setting
  • Treatment/interventions.

• Test and validate standardized SDOH data for use in patient care, care coordination between health and human services sectors, population health management, public health, value-based payment, and clinical research.

Domains grounded by those listed in the NASEM “Capturing Social and Behavioral Domains in Electronic Health Records” 2014

Fall 2022: Digital Disparities
Project Execution:
Three Workstreams (Terminology, Technical, Pilots)

- Terminology (SDOH Domains)
  - Coding Gap Analysis & Recommendations
  - Data Set Identification*
  - Publication in NLM, VSAC & ONC ISA

- Technical (HL7 FHIR)
  - New Code Submissions
  - FHIR IG Testing
  - FHIR IG Development
  - Community & FHIR Coordination

- Use in CDA or V2
- FHIR IG Ballot & Publication

*Using US Core value sets where possible

Pilots (Testing & Implementation)
Terminology Workstream Accomplishments

- Data definitions and code submissions for 17 SDOH Domains
- LOINC screener codes available for 16 domains
- ICD-10 z-codes and/or SNOMED CT codes available for 14 domains (8 codes included in FY2023 CMS IPPS Proposed Rule)
- SNOMED-CT intervention codes available for 16 domains
- Published 140 value sets in National Library of Medicine (NLM)
- Data class included in ONC USCDI v2

https://confluence.hl7.org/display/GRAV/Social+Risk+Data+Elements+And+Status
Technical Workstream Accomplishments

• STU1 completed in 2021
• Balloted Gravity SDOH Clinical Care STU2 in January 2022 Ballot Cycle
  • Fall 2022 Publication is targeted
  • Tested at January, May, and July 2022 HL7 & CMS FHIR Connectathons
  • Incorporated draft specifications for race/ethnicity exchange
  • Observations with source, method and distinct provenance

Opportunities for Improvement:

• IG Restructuring to separate overview and terminology work from the Screening and Assessment → Diagnosis work from the Goal setting, Refer for Intervention and Outcome Assessment
• Clarify the use of StructureMap to record how to process information gathered during screening
### Three-Tiered Piloting Approach

Defines incremental tiers for testing and implementing Gravity standards (terminology and technical).

- Entities may participate at any Tier.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tier I | Basic, information content verification  
- Establish information infrastructure and terminology for Tiers II and III  
- Information can be exchanged by any method or not at all | * Minimum requirements for Gravity Pilots |
| Tier II | Secure, Electronic Information Exchange  
- Exchange data defined in Tier I  
- Leverage established content and transport standards | Use in CDA or V2 |
| Tier III | Complete Gravity SDOH Data Model and Exchange  
- Implement complete Gravity FHIR IG data model  
- Implement Gravity FHIR IG exchange standards  
- Import/export SDOH datasets via robust technologies | Primary focus of FHIR Pilots |
Pilots Workstream Accomplishments

• Funded Pilots Testing Gravity Standards
  • ONC / HL7 Cooperative Agreement: OCHIN and AllianceChicago
  • Leading Edge Acceleration Projects (LEAP) Awardee: The University of Texas at Austin
  • ACL Phase 2 Social Care Referrals Challenge Teams: Closing the Loop Together in Southeast Michigan, FHIR-FLI, Missouri Aging Services Data Collaborative (MASDC), and Thrive Hub.

• Presented on the Gravity Project Piloting Approach and new Workgroup at the IHE USA’s Path to Production Digital Series in August 2022.
• Announced the launch the monthly Gravity Pilots Affinity Workgroup meetings on September 29, 2022.
  • We are projected to convene over 150 stakeholders at the first call.
  • 44 entities have submitted interest forms via Confluence Interest Form.
• Published the Gravity Pilots Affinity Workgroup Confluence site, https://confluence.hl7.org/display/GRAV/Gravity+Project+Pilots+Affinity+Workgroup+Home