C-CDA Implementation-A-Thon
March 2022 Executive Summary
By Lisa R. Nelson, MS, MBA

The March 2022 C-CDA Implementation-A-Thon (C-CDA IAT) was held as a two-day virtual event on Wednesday, March 30 and Thursday, March 31, 2022 from 10am to 6pm ET. This was the seventeenth running of the C-CDA Implementation-A-Thon and our 6th virtual event.

This IAT was well attended with nearly 40 participants including program facilitators and topic presenters. A record number of EHR vendors sent representative. The six who participated were: Cerner, eClinicalWorks, EMRlogic, Epic, Eyefinity, and NextGen. Representatives from the Sequoia Project, Carequality, and CommonWell communities attended. Representatives from the US Government participated from ONC and Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization (FEHRM). Optum participated from the payer community. Two DirectTrust HISPs along with many integrators and innovators who utilize C-CDA in information exchange solutions also attended.

It was an honor to have Sr. IT Specialist and Acting Interoperability Workstream Director Kim Heermann-Do from the Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization (FEHRM) Program speak with the group about leaning in on maintaining the C-CDA standard, mentioning that 60% of care for DOD and 30% of care for VA patients come from community providers, and currently, 5-6 million C-CDA documents are exchanged daily. She underscored the importance of improved nationwide interoperability via USCDI, explaining why FEHRM has helped drive C-CDA design work to support USCDI v2 and why they are assessing the need for similar work for USCDI v3.

Dr. Tom Bronken and Dr. Rob McClure discussed document types and changes coming for new outpatient progress notes based on work being driven out of the Joint Document Content Workgroup from Carequality and CommonWell. These improvements will enable clear differentiation between outpatient and inpatient progress notes, and support queries and requests for only outpatient notes.

Dave Carlson and Matt Szczepankiewicz presented new options developed to address the problem of how to represent multi-code problems. There appears to be a post-coordination solution for SNOMED CT which uses qualifiers and post-coordination grammar authorized for use by SNOMED CT. The group concluded it remains unclear what to do for other code systems. ICD-10 has dagger-and-asterisk semantics, but they weren’t designed for arbitrarily combining many codes. As additional examples arise which require this type of more advanced representation to convey needed semantics of the information to be exchanged, additional effort will be needed to develop a broader solution that will work for more code systems than just SNOMED CT.

Representatives from the C-CDA to-and-from US Core FHIR mapping project reviewed a new tool developed by John D’Amore to show corresponding coded content across corresponding CDA and FHIR examples that have been created through a mapping transformation process. The tool showed how Allergy and Immunization mapping examples produced by the project team could be more easily assessed by subject matter experts to determine if a mapping tool was producing an accurate transformation. John is soliciting feedback on the tool and everyone is invited to check it out the CDA to FHIR Visualization Tool at http://www.ccda.online/

The ONC presented new data classes and elements in Draft USCDIv3 including Health Insurance Info and Health Status. Additional data elements have been added in Laboratory, Patient Demographics and
Procedures. The group Reviewed Health Insurance information, Health Status, Laboratory, Patient Demographics, Procedures. USCDI v3 templates will be defined and added in the C-CDA R2.1 Companion Guide to determine where new modeling and guidance may be needed.

Specific Feedback was sought on several existing data elements. Sex assigned at birth and Gender Identity were discussed to review alignment requirements for the ONC value set with that of Gender Harmony project. Current and Previous Address (Patient Address) were reviewed in the context of new guidance from the Unified Specification for Address in Health Care (Project US@).


Implementers were reminded of two important upcoming deadlines:

1. Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) Extended comment period to May 2, 2022
2. ONC released Draft USCDI v3 and are accepting feedback on its content until April 30, 2022.

The CDA Management Group provided a report showing that 37 action items have been generated over the past five Implementation-A-Thons and 30 have been fully completed. Three of the seven open items were closed during this IAT.

Day 2

On day-two, breakout sessions were held where implementer teams worked on examples to contribute greater guidance on how to represent information the community was struggling to exchange. One group worked on clarifying how to populate legal authenticator information now required in the header of a C-CDA document. One group worked on an example to show how to represent an unsuccessful procedure had been performed. One group worked on advancing a solution for the need to represent a complex third-party concept using multiple standard codes. A team from the eyecare space worked on examples to exchange visual acuity and refraction measurements using existing C-CDA templates. Another team advanced examples to show how to represent healthcare goals.

The sessions were hands-on and productive. Each group presented a report out to demonstrate the accomplishments with the rest of the group. Examples developed in the IAT will be taken to the CDA Examples Task force by members from the different tracks.

Dave Hamill reminded everyone how important and valuable the post-event survey feedback is to improving future IATs noting that each IAT has undergone changes based on feedback from the prior event.

It was announced that the next C-CDA IAT will take place as a virtual event in July 2022. Participants were encouraged to work on advancing the available guidance for implementers by contributing to the ongoing work of the C-CDA Examples Task Force which meets on Thursdays from noon – 1:00pm ET. Conference calls for the group are announced on the HL7.org Conference Call Center. The Zulip chat C-CDA Stream will be used to continue discussion on the topics introduced during the event.

https://chat.fhir.org/#narrow/stream/179311-C-CDA

The topic sign-up grid for the July 2022 C-CDA IATs is already available on Confluence. Topics need to be identified before May 15th, 2022. C-CDA IAT facilitators are available to help implementers prepare topic presentations if needed. Participants were encouraged to keep these conversations going via the C-CDA and CDA streams on Chat.fhir.org.

C-CDA IAT facilitators Jean Duteau, Joginder Madra and Lisa Nelson closed the session by thanking the ONC for their continued sponsorship of the event.