

Clinical Assessment

- [Background](#)
- [Leadership](#)
- [Definitions](#)
- [Storyboards / Use Cases](#)
- [Progress and Related Work](#)
- [Relevant Links and Documents](#)

Background

Clinicians routinely perform clinical assessment to determine what problem(s) may affect the patient and before planning the treatments or management strategies that are best to manage a patient's condition.

From a "problem-oriented" medical record structure perspective, the clinical assessment represents the "A" of the SOAP components.

This collaborative project is initiated to:

- determine the boundary and scope of "clinical assessment" and;
- develop a FHIR resource/profile to support the capturing and exchange of clinical assessment information.

Leadership

Project co-leads:

- Dr Stephen Chu
- Dr Russ Leftwich
- Elaine Ayres

FHIR leads:

- Lloyd McKenzie
- David Hay

Domain Experts:

- Stephen Chu
- Russ Leftwich
- Laura Heermann Langford
- Emma Jones
- Rob Hausam
- Elaine Ayres
- Kevin Coonan

Stakeholder Groups:

- Patient Care Workgroup
- Orders & Observation
- Clinical Decision Support
- FHIR

Definitions

Dictionary Definition:

- Clinical assessment is "an evaluation of a patient's physical condition and prognosis based on information gathered from physical and laboratory examinations and the patient's medical history".

Source: <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/clinical+assessment>

Definition (as discussed at 2014-10-09 conference call)"

Clinical assessment is defined as the "Process to arrive at the status (including the clinical impression of health risk or prognosis) of a patient constrained by their health concerns"

The process includes

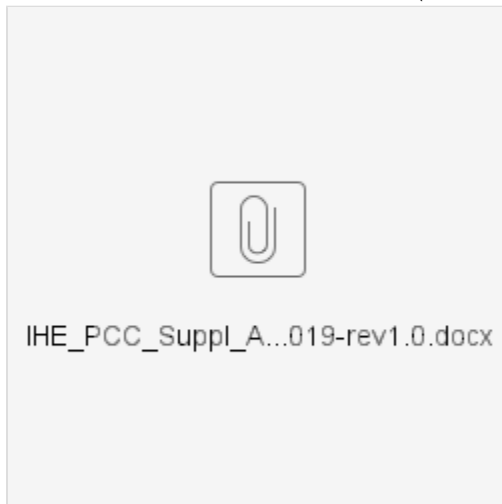
- The use of observation findings/results as determined by relevant systemic (e.g. CVS, respiratory, neurological) examination of the patient
- Measurement or observation results from use of prescribed set of standardised assessment protocols/instruments (e.g. APGAR, Glasgow Coma Scale, Mini-Mental State Examination)
 - (~ it is important to note that "assessment protocol/instrument" is part of the clinical assessment process and not the clinical assessment itself)
- The actual observations represent the "S" and "O" of the SOAP documentation
- The "A" in the SOAP is the documentation of the clinical analysis and reasoning or thought process based on the "S" and "O" findings of the patient's status
- The assessment reflects the conclusion of the reasoning process (which also identifies how the conclusion was reached)

Clinical Assessment Tool:

- A clinical assessment tool is an instrument or a set of measurements designed to evaluate a patient's clinical condition and/or to predict the risk(s) or prognosis.
- The measurement parameters/variables may be organised/presented as questionnaire, checklist, or scale.
- Examples:
 - Fracture Risk Assessment Tool (developed by the World Health Organisation Taskforce)
 - Standardized Mini Mental State Examination (SMMSE)
 - Barthel Index - International Resident Assessment Instrument (InterRAI)



- C-CDA Assessment Scale Template
- SDC - [Structure Data Capture \(SCD FHIR IG\)](#)
- [FHIR Clinical Guidelines](#) - Library Resources
 - E.g. [Opioid Prescribing Guidelines](#)
- IHE Assessment Curation and Data Collection (ACDC - new profile in progress) - Assessment instruments curation and management



Storyboards / Use Cases

Contributors

- Stephen Chu
- Elaine Ayres
- Russ Leftwich

Storyboards:

- [Nutrition Clinical Assessment Use Case 2014-10-30](#)
- [Head Injury Clinical Assessment Use Case: GCS 2014-10-15](#)
- [Acute Pharyngitis Clinical Assessment Use Case including clinical script updated 2014-11-05](#)
- [Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinical Assessment Use Case including clinical script updated 2014-11-03](#)

Progress and Related Work

- Work on Clinical Assessment is continued as the FHIR [ClinicalImpression](#) Resource development

Relevant Links and Documents

Assessment Instruments and Guidelines:

- [Australia-Royal Children Hospital Cervical Spine Assessment](#) Algorithm (description and flowchart)
- [Australia-Queensland Ambulance Service Clinical Assessment](#) Procedures
- [Alcohol Withdrawal Assessment Scale](#)

Clinical Assessment FHIR Resource/Profile Proposal is available through this link:

- http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=Category:FHIR_Resource_Proposal
- [S&I Structured Data Capture Initiative](#) is actively investigating representation of questionnaire content.