AAC-R American Association for Cancer Research®

FINDING CURES TOGETHER®

1401 H Street, NW | Suite 740
Washington, DC 20005
202-898-6499 | 202-898-0966 Fax
www.AACR.org | @AACR | Facebook.com/AACR.org

October 1, 2018

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St SW, Floor 7
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Representing Patient Tobacco Use (Smoking Status)

Dear Colleagues,

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), with over 40,000 members, is the oldest and largest scientific organization in the world dedicated to the prevention and cure of cancer through research, education, communication, and collaboration. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA) process for representing patient tobacco use.
The AACR commends the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) on their commitment to ensuring the ISA process facilitates interoperability for clinical, public health, and research purposes. It is our hope that smoking status can be more documented in Electronic Health Records (EHR) in a way that provides more consistency to allow for interoperability and streamlines categories to reduce confusion and improve providers' workflow.

One major concern with the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT) EHR smoking status classifications is that the categories are open to interpretation and are not mutually exclusive. The overlap in smoking status classifications causes confusion at the point of care where smoking status is documented. The current value set includes:

Current every day smoker
Current some day smoker
Former smoker
Never smoker
Smoker, current status unknown
Unknown if ever smoked
Heavy tobacco smoker
Light tobacco smoker

The overlap in values, lack of definitions for categories that are open to interpretation (e.g., light and heavy smoker), and risk of different interpretations of the record between different healthcare settings reduces the potential for tobacco use data to be organized, queried, and analyzed for the benefit of individuals, institutions, and populations.

To address overlap and interpretation challenges, we propose ONC address the following through the ISA process:

1. **Simplify the smoking status choices/classifications.**
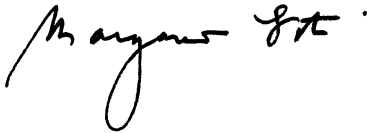2. **Remove overlapping smoking status classifications.**

AACR American Association
for Cancer Research®

FINDING CURES TOGETHER®

1401 H Street, NW | Suite 740
Washington, DC 20005
202-898-6499 | 202-898-0966 Fax
www.AACR.org | @AACR | Facebook.com/AACR.org

We recommend adoption of the following simplified categories:

Current Every Day Smoker
Current Some Day Smoker
Former Smoker
Never Smoker
Smoking Status Unknown

Furthermore, it would be advantageous to be able to capture use of other tobacco products (e.g. e-cigarettes), as well as quit date for former tobacco users.

Thank you for considering our input on this important issue. These comments are based on careful discussion by the AACR's Tobacco and Cancer Subcommittee (roster attached) and are approved by the AACR's CEO and Chairs of the Tobacco and Cancer Subcommittee and Science Policy and Government Affairs Committee. If the AACR can provide any additional information or assistance to ONC, please do not hesitate to contact Nicole Boschi, PhD, Senior Science Policy Analyst, at nicole.boschi@aacr.org.
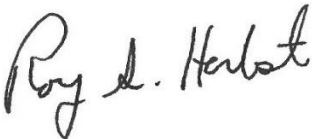
Sincerely,

Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc)
Chief Executive Officer
American Association for Cancer Research

George D. Demetri, MD
Chair, Science Policy and Government Affairs Committee
American Association for Cancer Research

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD
Chair, Tobacco and Cancer Subcommittee
American Association for Cancer Research

![AACR — American Association for Cancer Research — FINDING CURES TOGETHER]

1401 H Street, NW | Suite 740
Washington, DC 20005
202-898-6499 | 202-898-0966 Fax
www.AACR.org | @AACR | Facebook.com/AACR.org

TOBACCO AND CANCER SUBCOMMITTEE 2018

Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD
Chairperson
Professor of Medicine
Chief of Medical Oncology
Associate Director for Translational Research
Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center
Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven
Yale School of Medicine

Denise R. Aberle, MD
Professor of Radiology
Vice Chair of Research Radiological Sciences
University of California Los Angeles
UCLA Dept of Radiology

Thomas H. Brandon, PhD
Professor, Psychology & Oncologic Sciences
University of South Florida
Director, Tobacco Research and Intervention Program
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute

Geoffrey T. Fong, PhD
Founder, International Tobacco Control Policy
Evaluation Project
Professor of Psychology and Health Studies
Department of Psychology
University of Waterloo

Jennifer Rubin Grandis, MD
Associate Vice Chancellor, Clinical and Translational
Research
Director, Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Professor, Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery
University of California San Francisco School of Medicine

Ellen R. Gritz, PhD
Professor Emerita
Department of Behavioral Science
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

Dorothy K. Hatsukami, PhD
Associate Director, Masonic Cancer Center
Forster Family Professor in Cancer Prevention
Professor of Psychiatry
University of Minnesota

Ernest T. Hawk, PhD, MPH
Vice President & Division Head, Div. of Cancer
Prevention & Population Sci.
The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

Waun Ki Hong MD, DMSc (Hon.)
Division Head, Cancer Medicine
Professor, Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Fadlo R. Khuri, MD
Professor and Chair, Department of Hematology and
Medical Oncology
Winship Cancer Institute
Emory University

Scott J. Leischow, PhD
Professor and Co-Director
Cancer Prevention and Control
Director, Research on Health Equity and Community
Health (REACH)
Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

Peter G. Shields, MD
Deputy Director, Comprehensive Cancer Center
Professor, College of Medicine
The Ohio State University Medical Center

Benjamin Toll, PhD
Associate Professor of Public Health Sciences
Chief of Tobacco Cessation and Health Behaviors
Co-Director, Lung Cancer Screening Program
Hollings Cancer Center
Medical University of South Carolina

Kasisomayajula (Vish) Viswanath, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Society, Human Development, and Health
Harvard School of Public Health
Associate Professor of Population Sciences
Department of Medical Oncology
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Graham Warren, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
Vice Chairman for Research in Radiation Oncology
Hollings Cancer Center
Medical University of South Carolina