



# Health Information Technology Advisory Committee

## Adopted Standards Task Force 2022 Virtual Meeting

### Meeting Notes | June 28, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

---

#### Executive Summary

The focus of the first Adopted Standards Task Force 2022 (AS TF) meeting was to kick-off the work of the TF via introductions, planning, and a description of the standards review process. Members provided feedback on the charge, work plan, and standards review process. There were no public comments submitted verbally, but there was a robust discussion held via the chat feature in Zoom Webinar.

#### Agenda

10:30 a.m.	Call to Order/Roll Call
10:35 a.m.	Task Force Introductions
10:50 a.m.	Task Force Charge, Planning
10:55 a.m.	Standards Review Process
11:20 a.m.	Discussion
11:50 a.m.	Public Comment
11:55 a.m.	Next Steps
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn

#### Call to Order

Mike Berry, Designated Federal Officer, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. and welcomed members and the public to the first meeting of the AS TF 2022.

#### Roll Call

##### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

**Hans Buitendijk, ORACLE Cerner, Co-Chair**

**Steven (Ike) Eichner, Texas Department of State Health Services, Co-Chair**

Rajesh Godavarthi, MCG Health, part of the Hearst Health network

Jim Jirjis, HCA Healthcare

John Kilbourne, Department of Veterans Health Affairs (VA)

Hung S. Luu, Children's Health

Clem McDonald, National Library of Medicine

Lisa Nicolaou, Michigan Health Information Network (MiHin)

Eliel Oliveira, Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin

Vassil Peytchev, Epic

Samantha Pitts, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Alexis Snyder, Individual

Fillipe Southerland, Yardi Systems, Inc.

Ram Sriram, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Debi Willis, PatientLink Enterprises, Inc.



## MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Devan McGraw, Invitae

Raymonde Uy, National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

## ONC STAFF

Mike Berry, Designated Federal Officer

Wendy Noboa, Subcommittee Lead

Scott Bohon, Task Force Co-Lead

## Key Specific Points of Discussion

### TOPIC: CO-CHAIR REMARKS AND TF INTRODUCTIONS

Steven Eichner and Hans Buitendijk, AS TF 2022 co-chairs, welcomed everyone. Steven explained that the TF would review standards that have been included in regulations to determine if they need to be maintained or retired. The TF has a goal of completing its work by the end of August 2022, after which it will submit a report to the HITAC for its consideration and transmittal to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT. He described how the co-chairs worked with ONC to develop a framework and documentation to support the process.

He invited members to introduce themselves to the rest of the AS TF 2022:

- Steven (Ike) Eichner, co-chair of the AS TF 2022, is the Health and Information Technology Lead for the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin, Texas, where he works on a variety of health information exchange (HIE) and standards activities providing resources to help providers connect and submit data to public health. He provides opportunities to healthcare providers and other entities to retrieve data from the Department of State Health Services and work with public health agencies and organizations.
- Hans Buitendijk, co-chair of the AS TF 2022, is the Director of Interoperability Strategy at ORACLE Cerner and is a member of the HITAC. He and Steven have served on other related HITAC task forces and workgroups together recently.
- Rajesh Godavarthi has been with MCG Health, part of the Hearst Health network, since 2003 and focuses on providing evidence-based guidelines clinician support. He is a member of the HITAC and has lead interoperability research groups around primary use cases and other interoperability initiatives.
- Jim Jirjis is the Chief Health Information Officer for HCA Healthcare, which is in 22 states and 44 markets and deals with a variety of data and culture across care environments. He is a member of the HITAC.
- John Kilbourne, Department of Veterans Health Affairs (VA), has a background in terminology and previously worked at the National Library of Medicine prior to the VA. He is looking forward to contributing to the TF.
- Hung S. Luu is an Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and is the Director of Clinical Pathology for Children's Health. His focus is on laboratory interoperability, and he serves on the Standards and Informatics Committees for the College of American Pathologists. Through this role, he has been associated with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) SHIELD Initiative, which promotes laboratory interoperability.
- Lisa Nicolaou is the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Program Director at the Michigan Health Information Network (MiHin). Her areas of expertise are in community information exchange and the development of those community information exchanges' baseline work, and how to move data across sectors of care using equitable solutions.
- Eliel Oliveira is the Director of Research and Innovation at the Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin. He described his history of working with ONC on health informatics research



projects, standards development, extraction of data from electronic health records (EHRs), patient engagement technologies, SDOH, refill management systems, and other initiatives. He also supports HIEs in Central Texas and was the Chief Information Officer for the Louisiana Public Health and Information Center. He has also managed an HIE and has a long history of working in cancer research.

- Vassil Peytchev is a Lead Technical Adviser at Epic and works in standards, implementing and creating a wide variety of implementation guide (IG) specifications. He is looking forward to updating the list of standards for certification.
- Samantha Pitts is a General Internist and Faculty at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where she works in quality and safety and has been involved in decision support and use of data for quality and safety promotion and evaluation. She has also worked on implementation for e-prescribing.
- Alexis Snyder is a Patient and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist located in the Boston area. She works with providers, health systems, researchers, and other stakeholders on best practices for engaging patients and stakeholders. Her focus is on patient centered outcomes, research, and health IT. She serves on the HITAC and several advisory committees and councils that are health-related.
- Fillipe Southerland is the Director of Healthcare Solutions at Yardi Systems, Inc., a long-term care EHR solution. He leads the interoperability team and works with long-term care pharmacies, medical device vendors, and lab providers to integrate via HL7 and Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) standards. This is his first year on the HITAC, and he looks forward to participating in the TF.
- Ram Sriram is the Chief of the Software and Systems Division at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and is the Program Manager for the Health Information Technology Division. He and his team have developed test methods used in Meaningful Use. His main research area is artificial intelligence (AI), which he has worked on for about four decades. He is passionate about how AI can be applied in the healthcare field and what kinds of standards are required for implementation.
- Debi Willis is the CEO of PatientLink Enterprises, Inc. and focuses on patient engagement. She explained how PatientLink works with EHRs to test their APIs against a variety of standards. They are connected to over 42,000 locations in the United States and look at the impact of standards on patients and how data flows, whether it is consistent between the EHRs, and if the data is full. She is on the Vulcan Steering Committee, and they are focused on data for research.
- Mike Berry, ONC, introduced himself as the Designated Federal Officer of the HITAC. He explained that Josianne Charles, Liz Turi, and Scott Bohon are program leads at ONC who will support the AS TF as subject matter experts (SMEs) and will attend future meetings.

Finally, Steven welcomed members of the public and invited them to submit commentary during the public comment period.

## **TOPIC: TASK FORCE CHARGE, PLANNING**

Hans shared the AS TF 2022 charge and discussed the related 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (the Cures Act) Requirement that the charge fulfills. These included:

### Review of Adopted Standards

- Beginning 5 years after the date of enactment [December 13, 2016] of the 21st Century Cures Act and every 3 years thereafter, the National Coordinator shall convene stakeholders to review the existing set of adopted standards and implementation specifications and make recommendations with respect to whether to-
  - (A) maintain the use of such standards and implementation specifications; or
  - (B) phase out such standards and implementation specifications.



[Reference: 42 U.S. Code § 300jj–13 - Setting priorities for standards adoption](#)

- Charge: Review the existing set of ONC adopted standards and implementation specifications and make recommendations to maintain or phase out such standards and implementation specifications, as required by 42 U.S. Code § 300jj–13 (Setting Priorities for Standards Adoption). The current set of ONC adopted standards and implementation specifications are maintained on the [ONC Standards Hub](#).
- This charge does not seek recommendations for new standards and implementation specifications for ONC to adopt through rulemaking.

Hans discussed examples of recommendations that would and would not be in scope for the TF and explained that the ONC team will share spreadsheets highlighting areas of focus. Steven explained that there are ongoing opportunities to submit information for the United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) and for the Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA), and relevant information is available on ONC's and website.

### TOPIC: STANDARDS REVIEW PROCESS AND DISCUSSION

Hans and Steven described the AS TF 2022's standards review methodology, and TF members reviewed the Reference Material and Recommendations spreadsheets. Hans explained that the Reference Material spreadsheet included columns for links for each standard, a regulatory text citation, and the publisher. About 60 standards were included in this list and included code sets, syntax, data concepts, and certification testing. Groupings of standards for consideration were included on tabs in this spreadsheet to guide the focus of the TF, and Steven recognized that there are cross-over functions and multiple uses for the standards. The groupings were meant to guide the TF's work. Approved ONC Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) versions were also included in the spreadsheet. Hans explained that if another version of SVAP is released during the TF's period of work, members will be alerted, and the documentation will be updated.

Hans reviewed the Recommendations spreadsheet and explained that the lists of standards in groupings (1, 2, 3, etc.) roughly correlate to the TF's upcoming meetings when they will discuss each grouping. TF members were asked to share feedback on each standard (maintain, phase out/replace, phase out/retire, or inconclusive – more information needed) under the specific column in the document labeled with each member's name. This feedback will guide future TF discussions and presentations. He explained that there are columns for TF members to share information on the draft disposition determination and the rationale (individual TF member comments and final group level disposition determination and rationale. Steven explained that this information will be used to craft the TF's final recommendations to the HITAC. The co-chairs explained that the TF spreadsheets' instructions were included in a tab.

Hans and Steven described the methodology for how TF meetings would be run and explained that the TF can invite guest speakers and SMEs to present during meetings. They described how this process would be handled per the TF's timeline, which Steven reviewed and included in the presentation slides. Meetings will be held weekly from June 28 through September 13, 2022, with some exceptions, and the TF's recommendations will be presented to the HITAC at its September 14, 2022 meeting. Steven reviewed the deliverables for the next meeting of the TF, which are detailed in the Homework section (below). Hans asked that TF members prioritize their work to focus on Group 1, 2, and 3 items.

### DISCUSSION:

- In response to a question in the public chat in Zoom, Hans explained how the TF will review and make recommendations around updated versions of current standards and shared several examples. The TF will address the level of specificity needed for each standard it reviews
- John asked why the TF may recommend the removal of a standard. What would be the criteria for this?
  - Hans stated that this would occur if there is no need for the standard anymore, but he



added that it is more likely that the TF will determine that there is a newer version of the standard or a different standard that is better suited. The TF will go through the standards line by line, and he described this process.

- Steven stated that the two aspects would be retiring a standard because there is a better option available, or there is no need for the standard to continue to be in regulation. This is parallel to work that occurred in Promoting Interoperability, and the co-chairs shared examples, noting what would be in and out-of-scope for the current TF.
- Vassil asked for clarification about the definition of a "replacement being available," what standards could be considered, and how the TF would make recommendations.
  - Hans responded that one consideration might be if there is a newer version of a standard, while another consideration could be if there is another standard that could be a better approach that could be used as a replacement (older standard would be retired). He discussed several examples. Steven commented that the maturity level of the standard would be considered. Hans commented that the TF could determine the criteria each standard must meet during their upcoming discussions and that they reference earlier work by the HITAC for criteria for regulation.
- In response to a question from Clem about the versions of standards in the coding systems, Hans described the mechanism that exists to adopt more current versions. The TF should be able to have more general discussions around code sets and how to manage them; if the TF suggests retiring one, they will determine how to handle the situation. Hans added that guidance exists that a more current version can be used for certification in this situation.
- John noted that the USCDI, which was listed in the TF spreadsheets for member commentary, is a collection of standards. He asked if the feedback desired is that the entire USCDI should be treated differently than individual standards.
  - Hans stated that the objective would not be for TF members to suggest changes to the USCDI (given that a new version – USCDI Version 3 – will be released soon, and the comment/review period has lapsed). Rather, comments about restructuring the USCDI or about specific data elements/classes should be added to ONC New Data Element and Class (ONDEC) submission system. The AS TF 2022 will submit feedback or recommendations around which version of the USCDI, as a whole, should be considered for regulatory purposes, for example (USCDI Version 2 or Version 3).
  - Steven added that the same methodology applies to how the TF will approach any other standards (i.e., do not comment on what should be included in a particular standard, but just comment on the totality of the standard). The TF must consider whether standards are either good enough in total or not.
- Jim asked if anyone on the current AS TF 2022 participated in the review process previously, noting this work occurs every five years and that HITAC member terms are three years long with a finite number of terms.
  - Hans responded that this TF is the first to take on this work and that the cadence will allow for the TF to be reformed every three years.
  - Jim commented that the TF must stay at a high level, and Hans agreed that the TF must be as efficient as possible to be able to complete its work by late August. The TF must also avoid deep discussions around versions because the landscape can change over time; Hans suggested that the TF will learn how long the process and discussions will take through this initial run of the TF.
- Debi commented that the TF's task list is large and could be daunting. She asked how TF members who are not experts in specific areas should share feedback and how the TF might weigh feedback from various members on specific items.
  - Hans responded that this is challenging and suggested that TF members who are more well-versed in specific areas make crisp and clear recommendations to guide members who are not experts. He suggested that TF members review the links to standards in the spreadsheets to determine if they need support.



- Steven added that TF members can revise their votes throughout the process and encouraged them to note which areas/groupings/standards requirement more in-depth explanations. The TF will then be able to determine which SMEs to invite to present more context.
- Debi suggested adding another choice to the spreadsheet for TF members to indicate that they will rely on the opinions of SMEs or other experts or that the item is out of scope for that particular TF member's level of expertise. Mike Barry suggested that members could either leave items blank or respond with "Abstain," if that option were added. The co-chair agreed that a blank response would indicate that the member is still working on the item and then "Abstain" indicates that the member agrees with the overall decision of the group.
- Steven suggested adding a third column to separate out a request for additional information.
- Mike responded that ONC could update the columns and choices in the TF's working spreadsheet as necessary.
- John asked if there is a shorthand way of saying that the TF members will accept the standards that will be updated by the SVAP.
  - Hans asked TF members to review them as needed. Members do not need to search for all information, and he explained how they could find the most current information. The co-chairs will collect this information to aid TF members.
  - Steven discussed the different implications of a version change updates versus replacing standards.

## Action Items and Next Steps

Homework for the June 12, 2022, AS TF 2022 Meeting:

- In preparation of the next meeting, all task force members are asked to review the disposition tracking spreadsheet on Google documents. The spreadsheet was updated per the suggestions made during the first meeting. Note: Unless members have done so previously, they will need to provide their Gmail address to Accel Solutions to access this document.

Homework Assignment Instructions

- Review the instructions on the first tab of the spreadsheet and become familiar with the definitions. Note- There is not an expectation for one to have in-depth knowledge of every standard. Please feel free to consult others as needed to best inform your recommendation.
- Review the standards listed in Group 1 (see "Review Cycle Grouping" in Column D):
- Click on the link to the standard (Column A) and begin to get familiar with the standard. The AS TF will discuss each standard during our next task force meeting.
- In Column V, please indicate with your name if any specific information is needed. For example: "Hans - Need to have a better understanding of dental codes." Please be careful to avoid overwriting other task force member comments. The co-chairs will determine if external presenters are needed to inform the task force members about a particular standard.
- In Columns E through U, find the column with your name, and select the appropriate (tentative) disposition for each standard. If you are already familiar with a particular standard, you may be able to select "Maintain", "Phase Out\_Replace/Update", etc. However, if you are not familiar with the standard, please enter "Working", and you can update your selection once the task force discusses the standard in more detail. If you are entering a final disposition, please indicate using your name in Column W if you have additional comments or rationale for your disposition. For example: "Hans – standard should be phased out/replaced with alternate standard XYZ."
- Please indicate in Column V if you would like to lead a discussion on a particular standard. We would like all task force members to consider volunteering to present on standards where you have any level of subject matter expertise.



- Column X will remain empty until recommendations are synthesized and finalized.
- Once you address Group 1, please feel free to work ahead to Group 2, etc. as your time allows. In particular, it would be helpful for our planning to know “Specific Information Needed” (Column V) for any standard in any group so that we can consider external presenters in advance.

If anyone has questions, please reach out to the co-chairs or the ONC program team by email.

## Public Comment

### QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VERBALLY

Mike Berry opened the meeting for public comments. There were no public comments received verbally.

### QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ZOOM WEBINAR CHAT

Mike Berry (ONC): Welcome to the Adopted Standards Task Force. We will be starting soon.

Mike Berry (ONC): Meeting materials can be found: <https://www.healthit.gov/hitac/events/adopted-standards-task-force-2022>

Jim Jirjis: you may have inadvertently skipped Jirjis

Vassil Peytchev: What is the definition of a “replacement being available”?

Janice Karin: may of them are collections in that sense - code sets have a lot of different areas of content, for example, and one might argue that Z codes are a distinct set despite being part of a larger standard, etc.

Janice Karin: how does that interact with the SVAP process for standards advancement?

Janice Karin: sorry, in a bought of bad timing I had to step away for a second - carry on

Jim Jirjis: agree. please restate the assignment *[sic]*

Alexis Snyder: Have you already sent out the worksheet? I do not have it

Hans Buitendijk: The worksheet and supporting spreadsheets will be sent out after today’s meeting.

Jim Jirjis: thanks Hans

Fil Southerland: Agree - appreciate the structure

Lisa Nicolaou: I would agree on this for my own position.

Alexis Snyder: are they in group order on the worksheet?

Alexis Snyder: agree with deb, need line for “out of my scope of expertise”

Lisa Nicolaou: Trying to bring everyone up to a baseline level of knowledge in order to come to consensus may not be possible.

Alexis Snyder: blank and abstain makes sense



Janice Karin: yes, I thought that's what I asked earlier that I was asked if it was sufficiently answered (how this interacts with svap)

Samantha Pitts: yes, that's what I am trying to ask about too - is identifying the latest version

Samantha Pitts: I think that would be really helpful for the group

Alexis Snyder: I cannot go hunt down the info, I think for everyone's sake we need an outline of what it is you want us to review and provide it

## **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL**

There were no public comments received via email.

## **Resources**

[AS TF Webpage](#)

[AS TF – June 28, 2022 Meeting Webpage](#)

[AS TF – June 28, 2022 Meeting Agenda](#)

[AS TF – June 28, 2022 Meeting Slides](#)

[HITAC Calendar Webpage](#)

## **Meeting Schedule and Adjournment**

Steven and Hans thanked everyone for their participation, summarized key achievements from the current meeting, and shared a list of upcoming AS TF meetings. The next meeting of the AS TF will be held on July 12, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m. E.T.