HL7 Work Group Meeting

San Antonio Texas – January 8-14th, 2017

Attendees:

The list is provided in the Appendix.

Monday Q1

Chair:	Nathan Bunker
Scribe:	Rob Snelick
Attendees:	3 Rob Snelick, Nathan Bunker, Frank Oemig
Quorum:	Yes

1. Discussed and created agenda for May WGM in Madrid – Approved (Frank/Rob): 2-0-0
2. Discussed how the conformance WG should get involved with conformance and profiling FHIR. What should/can we do? Are there any outstanding issues/tasks for our WG? Reviewed current list of FHIR tasks as sent out the week before the meeting--conclusion is that there is nothing assigned to our WG.
3. Projects review: HL7 v2.x Data Types Flavors, have PSS but have not moved this project forward. Universal Conformance project was determined to be valuable but we currently don't have resources to make any progress--tabled. We reviewed and updated the status of all of our project.
4. PBS metrics: we have 2 issues but we are not aware what we are missing. We have not received invites for the FTSD meetings (except 1 which we attended). Note: later discussion revealed that during the past year two more evotes circulated (Feb + July) which we missed to react to.
5. Reviewed, updated, and approved SWOT.

Monday Q2

Chair:	Rob Snelick
Scribe:	Nathan Bunker
Attendees:	5 Rob Snelick, Nathan Bunker, Frank Oemig, Didi Davis
Quorum:	Yes

1. Reviewed and approved (no changes) DMP (Rob/Frank): 3-0-0
2. Reviewed, updated, and approve Mission charter. (Frank/Rob): 3-0-1
3. Reviewed, updated, and approved 3-year plan. (Rob/Frank): 4-0-0

4. Reviewed GForge tracker items

Discuss the current practice of pre-adoption and versioning in respect to the HL7 conformance model. What do we want to do moving forward? Preparing for discussion for InM.

- How to handle HL7 versions you don't expect?
- How should people use the V2 Code Tables now?

What is driving pre-adoption?

- Version increases trigger costs, implementers want to make small changes instead of investing in a new version.
- Take advantage of new concepts in newer versions without the pain of moving up to a new version.

It's an issue when new profiles are being created. Should profile tooling allow users to add components from other versions? What NIST is seeing is a hodge-podge. What should we recommend?

Some complications occur when using XML structure for HL7 v2. So there is an impact if allowing for pre-adoption if support is needed for XML. HL7 v3 has a similar issue.

It's technically possible to provide support for pre-adoption.

The profile declaration is evolving into a field that has more binding strength than the version number.

Proposed general guidance: If the features you want are in a future version then you should upgrade to newer version. The conformance profile can still make modifications including pulling structures and vocabulary from previous versions. In the end the conformance profile is the governing document.

Version number should state what version is used as the foundation.

Attempt to use the latest code tables for the latest version. Make adaptions to code sets when needed. A good question for vocab.

System accepting the message should try to parse the message. In general non-conformance should not prevent accepting good data.

Backwards/forwards compatibility needs to go into a "Best Practices" document. How to Apply Conformance.

Monday Q3

Chair:	Rob Snelick
Scribe:	Nathan Bunker

Attendees:	3 Rob Snelick, Nathan Bunker, Frank Oemig, Didi Davis
Quorum:	Yes

Pulling out Chapter 2B. Needs a new title: HL7 V2 Conformance Model ?

- Higher level of constraint definitions that cross product families

Frank did a demonstration of the new HL7 v2+ work. He is rendering a new layout to show the HL7 v2 standard. There is a lot of positive feedback with this new approach. It simplifies reading/understanding.

Tuesday Q2

Chair:	Rob Snelick
Scribe:	Nathan Bunker
Attendees:	7 Rob Snelick, Nathan Bunker, Frank Oemig, Raj, Eric Larson, Didi Davis, Richard Ettema
Quorum:	Yes

AEGIS doing a demonstration of their Touchstone software. Richard Ettema went through how the system reads the FHIR profiles and does conformance testing on FHIR servers. This led to a discussion about the code system used in FHIR. FHIR does not use the latest vocabulary work that was done to merge V2 and V3.

Tuesday Q3

Meeting with Infrastructure and Messaging.

Items that need to be discussed:

- Follow up on the proposal to remove concept of "original mode".
    - Resolution: HL7 v2.9 is going to be re-balloted so there is a chance for this to be included. Tony was going take care of this. Conformance should follow up on this.
- Discuss backwards compatibility, what is the standard?
    - Section 2.8 Version Compatibility Definition section describes how to detail of backwards compatibility
    - This section is ambiguous enough to not be helpful. Conformance is not discussed either.
    - This section can’t be changed in HL7 v2.9, but it’s something that needs to be addressed in HL7 v2+.

- How binding is the conformance on length? Especially on older versions that have statements on length but which may or may not be binding.
    - In 2.3 and 2.4 getting the lengths correct was a major pain. Finally we said “no more lengths”. Later someone said we need a conformance length. This is set for some fields. This happened somewhere in 2.6 or 2.7. Before this the lengths were not binding. When conformance length was added the length for special data elements with a specific defined length became binding.
    - Looking at 2.4.3.4 in HL7 2.2 defines Maximum Length but it is not binding.
    - No good resolution, no good support in older versions for what lengths are binding and which are not.
- How should the current conformance model be used on older versions and profiles?
    - This is pretty well established that the current conformance model can be used on older versions. No discussion here today.
- Policy on pre-adoption, best-practices (likely: don't do it, go to the latest version), data types, vocabulary.
    - PHER has taken a stance that their implementation guide will not pre-adopt.
    - Group feels like this is a good stance to take.
- Should evaluate implementation aspects of versions of standards (systems can get locked into versions and can't support newer versions)

Wednesday Q3

Chair:	Frank Oemig
Scribe:	Nathan Bunker
Attendees:	16 See sheet in separate PDF
Quorum:	Yes

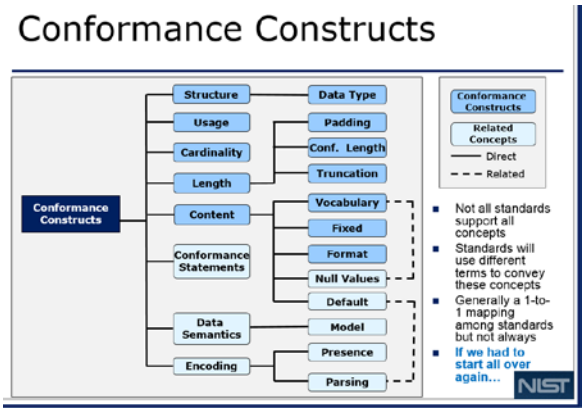
Discussing Implementation Guides

Implementation Guide registry. The styles and content of the IG are different from user to user. Maybe do a demonstration later.

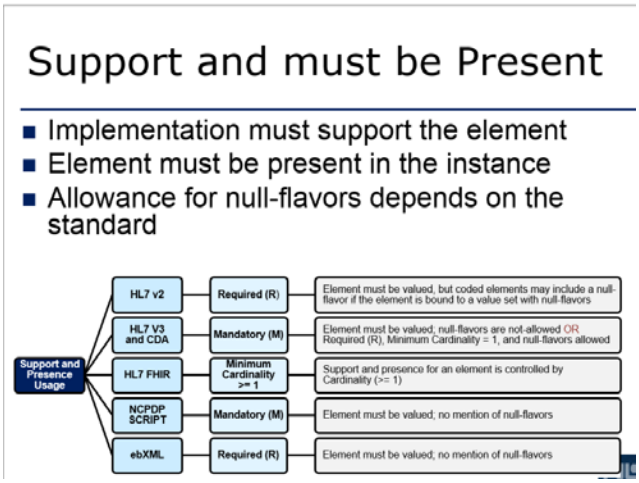
Conformance Rules / Conformance Constructs

Looking at slides from Conformance Tutorial.

Discussing Slide 65

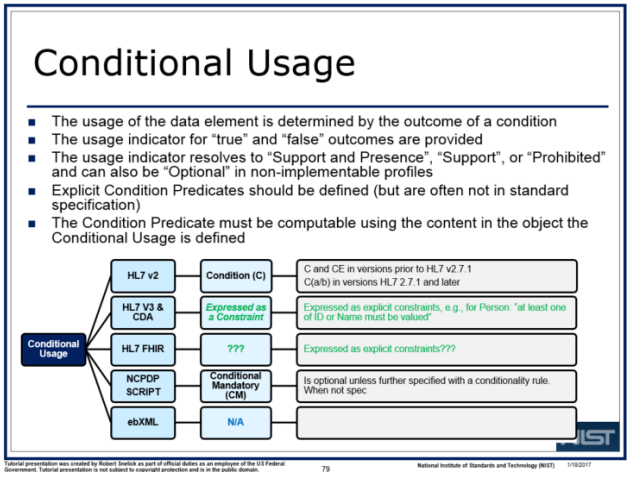


Need to add additional slide to show the relationship between structure and what the data elements can contain.



Slicing is closest to the choice boxes of V3.

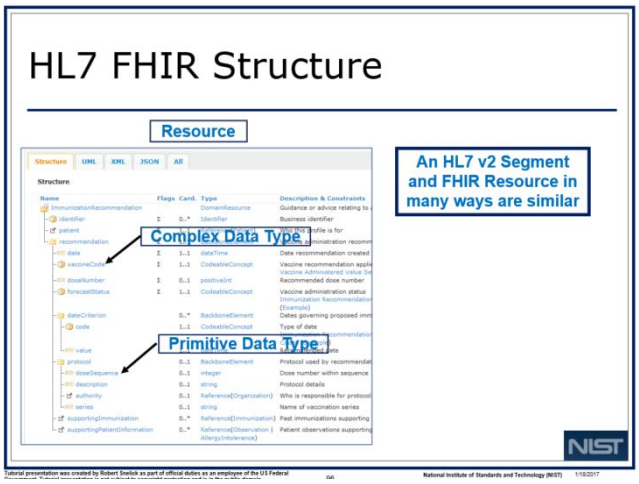
Should there be a minimum standard of constructs that should be supported? The question should be turned around the other way. The list we have shown before is the list of everything that has been extracted from various standards. Some of these concepts apply to structures made up of different kinds of data elements. The concept doesn't have definite meaning unless you understand the structures. The slide doesn't mean to restrict it to just the data level.



Question about how these conditions are expressed in FHIR: Expressed in FHIR Path and are computable. Here is more information on fhirpath http://hl7.org/fhirpath/index.html

Discussing Slicing

Can be more specific. Can say an element repeats *n* times. Must be at least one member in each group, and of these members and two of these members must comply with these additional constraints.



Need to add Backbone concept to this slide.

Essentially all of our standards are tree structures.

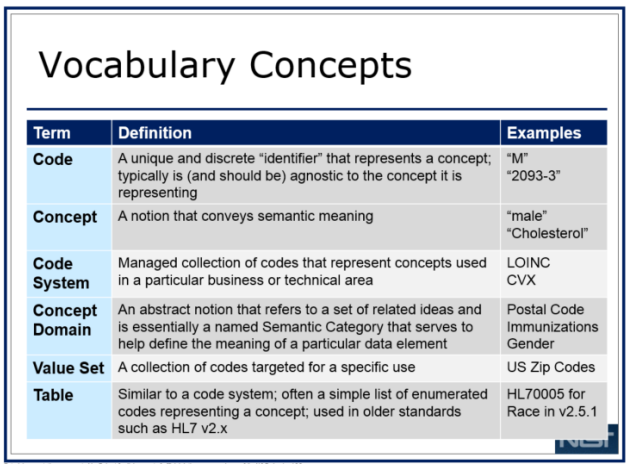
In FHIR a profile is used to bundle resources together just like an HL7 v2 message pulls segments together. Need to discuss the higher level relationships of how things are structured together.

How you compose the resource depends on the paradigm you use the resources. Messaging or documents has larger objects than using REST. On REST the unit of exchange is essentially a "segment". They reference each other so that works fine.

In FHIR, primitives (datatypes and resources) can have extensions. So they are not completely primitive.

Question about how to handle NULL flavors. In V3 you can have the problems of not getting the data you need. The concern is since primitives can be extended then how do systems deal with this when any field can be extended. Seems like FHIR could have the same problem.

Should expect a lot of implementation guides to be created in FHIR. Which does not help with interoperability. Tabling this question for now.

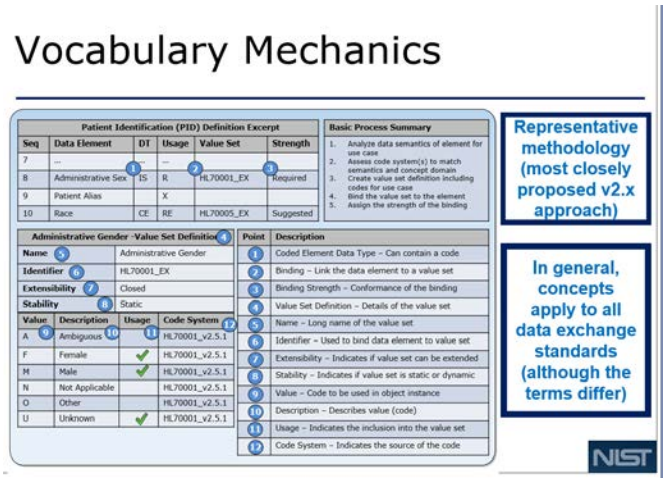


Vocabulary Concepts

Term	Definition	Examples
Code	A unique and discrete "identifier" that represents a concept; typically is (and should be) agnostic to the concept it is representing	"M" "2093-3"
Concept	A notion that conveys semantic meaning	"male" "Cholesterol"
Code System	Managed collection of codes that represent concepts used in a particular business or technical area	LOINC CVX
Concept Domain	An abstract notion that refers to a set of related ideas and is essentially a named Semantic Category that serves to help define the meaning of a particular data element	Postal Code Immunizations Gender
Value Set	A collection of codes targeted for a specific use	US Zip Codes
Table	Similar to a code system; often a simple list of enumerated codes representing a concept; used in older standards such as HL7 v2.x	HL70005 for Race in v2.5.1

This slide doesn't show all the attributes. Like case-sensitivity for tables, this is a meta data about tables but it is not included.

Work has been done on vocabulary on the Value Set Binding Syntax project. But there is work to do to map the concepts to each standards.



There is concern that FHIR does not have enough support to specify the vocabulary binding that is needed to be very precise. Rob Hausam is the one to talk to about vocabulary in FHIR.

These standards can be very confusing to those who work in the field. We need to educate more and we will also learn something.

Should we meet again in Madrid? There will be more instances of FHIR profile that we can look at. So yes, we will plan for Madrid meeting. Need to talk about generating an implementation guide that is complete enough to test the structures and implementation.

Wednesday Q4

Basic agenda for WGM has been set for Madrid. Details will be determined later.

Nathan will do room assignments.

Nathan will send out notes from meeting.

Moving weekly meeting to 3pm US ET, starting on January 30th. Nathan will schedule new set of conference calls.

Nathan will check to see when FTSD is going to meet in the next month and make sure we are aware of it.

Thursday Q1, Q2 and Q3

Meeting with Vocabulary, please see their minutes.

Conformance Guidance for Implementation /Testing WG Attendance List

Meeting: JAN 2017

Attendee Name	Organisation	eMail	correct	Session M1	M2	M3	M4	T1	T2	T3	T4	W1	W2	W3	W4	TH1	TH2	TH3	TH4
Alschuler, Liora	Lantana																		
Beebe, Calvin	Mayo	cbeebe@mayo.edu																	
Beeler, Woody	Beeler Consulting	woody@beelers.com																	
Boone, Keith	GE Healthcare	keith.boone@ge.com																	
Bunker, Nathan	AIRA	Nathan.Bunker@gmail.com		X	X	X			X					X					
Burggraaff, Adri	HL7 NL	adri.burggraaff@slz.nl																	
Case, Jim	NLM	james.case@nih.gov																	
Couderc, Carmela	Siemens	carmela.couderc@siemens.com																	
Coyle, Joey	Intermountain	joey@xcoyle.com																	
Garguilo, John	NIST	john.garguilo@nist.gov																	
Gebhart, Kenneth	NIST	Gebhart@nist.gov																	
Gilbert, Peter	COVISINT	Peter.Gilber@covisint.com																	
Grain, Heather	LG Inform	h.grain@ehc.edu.au																	
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Heitmann, Kai	HL7-DE	hl7@kheitmann.de																	
Hendler, Peter																			
Henderson, Mike	Eastern Informatics	mike@easterninformatics.com																	
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Huang, Wendy	HL7 CA/Infoway	whuang@infoway.ca																	
Julian, Tony																			
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Klein, Ted	Klein Consulting	ted@tklein.com																	
Knapp, Paul	CSI	pknapp@continovation.com																	
Kramer, Ewout	Furore	e.kramer@furore.com																	
Kuhn, Thom	ACR	tkuhn@acponline.org												X					
Legg, Michael	ML&A	michael.legg@mland.com.au																	
Lynch, Cecil	Ontoreason	clynch@ontoreason.com																	
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Martin, Michael	AAVLD	mmarti5@clemson.edu																	
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McCauley, Vincent	MS&A																		
McCay, Charles																			
McClure, Rob	MD Partners	rmclure@mdpartners.com																	
McKenzie, Lloyd																			
Mead, Charlie	NCI	meadch@mail.nih.gov																	
Muir, Sean	VA	Sean.Muir@va.gov																	
Nelson, Dale	~~Squaretrends~~ ACCENTURE	~~dale.nelson@squaretrends.com~~ dale.m.nelson@accenture.com											X						

Conformance Guidance for Implementation /Testing WG Attendance List

Meeting: JAN 2017

Attendee Name	Organisation	eMail	correct	M1	M2	M3	M4	T1	T2	T3	T4	W1	W2	W3	W4	TH1	TH2	TH3	TH4
Oemig, Frank	HL7 Germany	hl7@Oemig.de		X	X	X			X	X				X					
Parker, David	Evolvent/DoD	david.parker@evolvent.com																	
Parker, Ron	Infoway	rparker@infoway.ca																	
Peters, Melva	GP Informatics	melva.peters@gpinformatics.com																	
Peytchev, Vassil	Epic	vassil@epic.com																	
Pratt, Doug	Siemens	douglas.pratt@siemens.com																	
Radov, Nick	Axolotl																		
Reis, Larry		larrywreis@es.com																	
Roberts, Geoffrey	Quest Technologies	geoffrey_roberts@festmail.fu																	
Rubin, Ken	OMG	ken.rubin@hp.com																	
Shafarman, Mark	Shafarman Consulting	mshafarm@gmail.com							X	X				X					
Shakir, Abdul Malik	City of Hope	AbdulMalik@ShakirConsulting.com																	
Sheridan, John	eHDS LLC.	jsheridan@ehds.biz																	
Singureanu, Ioana	VHA Eversolve	ioana@eversolve.com																	
Snelick, Robert	NIST	rsnelick@nist.gov		X	X	X			X					X					
Spronk, Rene		rene.spronk@ringholm.com																	
Stechishin, Andy	CANA Software	andy.stechishin@gmail.com																	
Stevenson, Kent	Evolvent/DoD	kent.stevenson@evolvent.com																	
Stuart, Sandy	KP	sandra.stuart@kp.org																	
Taylor, Sheryl	Booz Allen Hamilton																		
Radov, Nick	Optum	nick.radov@optum.com			X														
Davis, Didi					X				X										
Eric Larson						X			X					X					
ETTEMA, RICHARD	AEGIS	richard.ettema@aegis.net							X					X					
MEHRA, RAJ	CERNER	rmehra@cerner.com							X										
TESSA van STIJN	NICTIZ	stijn@nictiz.nl												X					
Isaac Vetter	Epic	isaac@epic.com												X					
PETER JORDAN	HL7 NZ	pkjordan@xtra.co.nz												X					
Ivan Niezgocki	Accenture	ivan.j.niezgocki@accenture.com												X					
JOHN ROBERTS	TN DEPT OF HEALTH	john.a.roberts@tn.gov												X					
Jeff Danford	Allscripts	jeffrey.danford@allscripts.com												X					
Oliver Krauss	University of Upper Austria	oliver.krauss@fh-hagenberg.at												X					
BERTIL REPPEN	HL7-Norway	[illegible]												X					