

INTEROPERABILITY FOR ELECTRONIC CLINICAL DOCUMENTS

Dictation/transcription, electronic health record vendors and professional groups pool resources in rapid development effort to standardize the most common types of clinical documents.



Providers with standards-compliant electronic medical records will be the big winners from a broad effort to establish interoperability specifications for common types of clinical documents. The project, called “Clinical Document Architecture for Common Document Types (CDA4CDT)”, will create implementation guides for the most common types of dictated clinical documents. The guides will use the Health Level Seven (HL7) Clinical Document Architecture (CDA), the same framework used by the ASTM/HL7 Continuity of Care Document (CCD) and many other projects.

“Standardization of dictated notes has considerable value – enabling natural language processing, bringing groups together towards convergence and integrating dictated and transcribed notes directly into our electronic health record,” says **Bob Dolin, MD, Kaiser Permanente**, and a co-editor of the project. According to **Dolin**, “Standardizing the sections within core document types brings us one step closer to new opportunities for decision support and patient safety.”

Implementation Guides for History & Physical Notes and Consultation Notes are currently undergoing balloting through HL7. Later efforts will address Operative Notes and other common types of dictated reports. “This is a very significant step that will assist healthcare organizations and health information exchanges to establish practical, common repositories and common methods for querying patient-centric information regardless of the source,” says **Wes Rishel, Research Vice President at Gartner, Inc.**

“Medical records are produced today in hundreds of formats and thousands of disparate systems by highly skilled medical transcriptionists. Supporting their compliance with data interoperability standards will give a tremendous boost to the national goal of comprehensive, patient-centric electronic records, available across the spectrum of care,” stated **Peter Preziosi, PhD., Chief Executive Officer of AHDI.**

“Medical Transcription Service Organizations are on the front lines of producing and delivering medical documents in this emerging EHR environment. Report standardization with greater portability will deliver operational efficiency and enhanced patient care. We stand ready to assist in the process and play an instrumental role in implementing these concepts,” stated **Jay Cannon, President of the Medical Transcription Industry Association.**

“We are very excited to see the transcription industry fully embrace this effort, bringing them together with the efforts of the EHR community to standardize around the HL7 CDA. Working together, these groups can lower healthcare costs and increase patient safety through industry-wide standardization”, stated **Donald Mon, PhD, vice president of practice leadership at AHIMA.** “This effort advances data content standards so needed in the industry.” “CDA provides the common framework for managing information in electronic documents and electronic medical records,” says **Michael Finke, CEO M*Modal.** “The CDA for Common Document Types effort will provide a clear path for integration leading to truly comprehensive, ‘meaningful’ clinical documents gathered from the full spectrum of healthcare providers, regardless of their level of technical sophistication in order to increase patient safety, promote continuity of care and reduce cost.”

“We are very excited at the potential, and the response of the dictation/transcription community has been fantastic.”

This CDA4CDT project was initiated by M*Modal, AHIMA and AHDI (formerly AAMT), and MTIA. Project benefactors include Spheris, MedQuist, InterFix, Precyse Solutions, Webmedx, MDinTouch and 3M. Also supporting the effort through volunteer participation are GE Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente, Mayo Clinical, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the Military Health System. Project leadership is provided by Alschuler Associates, LLC.



About the Founders

M*Modal offers on-demand conversational documentation services that help healthcare providers capture discrete clinical information from dictation to generate complete and timely electronic medical records. The company's unique speech recognition and understanding technology platform, AnyModal CDS, is a vital tool that empowers physicians to capture clinical facts and orders from dictation without requiring any change to their normal dictation routine. M*Modal's focus is on providing hospitals and medical transcription service providers with the industry's most comprehensive yet most adaptable solution for creating highly accurate, structured, encoded and shareable medical documents to increase patient safety, promote continuity of patient care, and reduce cost. For more information, please visit www.mmodal.com.

AHIMA

AHIMA is the premier association of health information management (HIM) professionals. AHIMA's 51,000 members are dedicated to the effective management of personal health information needed to deliver quality health care to the public. Founded in 1928 to improve the quality of medical records, AHIMA is committed to advancing the HIM profession in an increasingly electronic and global environment through leadership in advocacy, education, certification, and lifelong learning. For more information about the Association, go to www.ahima.org

AHDI and MTIA

The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI), formerly AAMT, has been the professional organization representing medical transcriptionists since 1978. AHDI sets standards of practice and education for medical transcriptionists, administers a certification program, has established a code of ethics, and advocates on behalf of the profession. There are over 135 component associations of AHDI, each of which holds regular educational meetings and symposia. For more information, visit www.ahdionline.org. The Medical Transcription Industry Association is the world's largest trade association serving medical transcription service operators. Its mission is to create an environment in which medical transcription companies can prosper, grow, and deliver the highest level of healthcare documentation services. For more information, visit www.mtia.com.