



B.C. Health Information Standards Update

May 2019

KEEPING VENDORS INFORMED

IN THIS ISSUE

Introduction to newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of a new B.C. Health Information Standards newsletter. A recent dialogue between the EMR vendor community, the Doctors Technology Office (at the Doctors of BC), and the Ministry of Health sparked the initiative to launch this newsletter to keep stakeholders informed and engaged in ongoing developments in provincial health information standards. This newsletter will support participation at the Health

Information Standards Vendor Collaboration Forum with the first meeting scheduled for June 4, 2019. In future editions and forum discussions, you may find opportunities to get involved in further developing standards and improving interoperability. We encourage you to identify these areas of interest and to partner with us to advance an integrated and connected system that transforms how health care is delivered in B.C.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Coming to you in a future newsletter will be details about the soon to be published *B.C. Health Concerns and Diagnosis Value Set*. This is a subset of SNOMED CT® that was developed to provide users with a listing of concepts that are relevant to recording health concerns and diagnoses. This subset has about 5,200 concepts with mappings to ICD-9, ICD-10-CA and CedDxs. The *B.C. Health Concerns and Diagnosis Value Set* was developed from multiple sources - both local and international.



B.C. Document Ontology

The B.C. Document Ontology is a collaboration between the health authorities, Doctors of BC, and the Ministry of Health on a standard set based on Regenstrief LOINC standards. Learn more about it below.



Further Information

Here you can find additional resources for information pertaining to health information standards.

B.C. Document Ontology

The B.C. Document Ontology consists of a set of all Logical Observation Identifiers, Names and Codes (LOINC) and non LOINC document codes currently being distributed in B.C. throughout the health information exchange networks. These document codes are built on an underlying framework and classification of the key attributes for naming clinical documents. Health Authorities across B.C. and Canada are expanding the list of document types being exchanged to include medical specialty and procedure specific document types which is driving the need for a document ontology to help classify and categorize this growing list of documents types.

Work on the B.C. Document Ontology began in 2016 with collaboration between Health Authorities, Doctors of BC and the B.C. Ministry of Health. The ontology is based on the Regenstrief LOINC document ontology standard and is extended to include other document types current in use or previously used in B.C. that are not specified in LOINC. This ontology is a conceptual and simple to implement structure for labeling and organizing documents within clinical applications.

The implementation guide is designed to give guidance to health information system developers and business analysts to assist them in providing two key capabilities in their systems:

1. The ability to search for specific document types using a common ontology of document names. The specific need for the ontology is to provide semantics for names of documents that are exchanged between health information systems.
2. The ability to search for focused collections of documents that have many different document types but share common attributes. This capability can be accomplished through the use of filters applied to the 5 Document Ontology axis attributes.

MORE INFORMATION

The full implementation guide can be found [here](#). For any questions, please email HLTH.CISSupport@gov.bc.ca

The scope of this implementation guide is twofold. Firstly, it is to build an understanding of the various document codes, names and axis attributes available in the B.C. Document Ontology. Secondly, this guide is intended to document integration techniques, use cases and best practices that an implementer can use to successfully integrate with the B.C. Document Ontology.

The technical approach of this implementation guide consists of:

- Documentation of the current B.C. Document Ontology as-is.
- Documentation of the use of metadata to support queries for document types outside of simple queries based on LOINC code alone.

Implementing the Document Ontology provides a foundation for standardized searching, archiving, data mining and information exchange based upon clinical document types. This will provide immediate value to the end user for existing documents that have already been received and captured as well as future clinical documents that will be exchanged.

The current list of document codes in the B.C. Document Ontology covers ALL past and present clinical documents that have been delivered from Health Authority sources to end user EMR systems via Excelleris and Clinical Document Exchange (CDX).

The full implementation guide can be found [here](#).

Additional Resources

Here are some resources for more information. Please don't hesitate to contact the Conformance & Integration Services team at HLTH.CISSupport@gov.bc.ca if you have any questions.

Health Information Standards

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/health-information-standards>

Health Information Standards Catalogue

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/health-information-standards/standards-catalogue>

Information on Integrating with Ministry of Health Systems

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/software>