



Public Health Data Standards Consortium

Mission, Goals and Strategies

Discussion Document

March 21, 2002 Expert Panel on Funding

Consortium Mission

The mission of the PHDSC is to improve the health and health care of the U.S. population through improved health related information by expanding involvement in existing health data standards and content organizations. The Consortium determines standards needs through consultation with stakeholders, facilitates the use of existing national standards and identifies priorities for the development of new national data standards for public health and health services research. The Consortium works with its members and other partners to educate the public health and the health services research communities about health data standards issues.

Consortium Goals and Strategies

- Improve the health and health care of the U.S. population through improved health related information.
- Convene local, State, and national health services researchers and public health practitioners around data standards issues, utilizing existing organizations to facilitate communication with and disseminate information to other stakeholders.
- Identify high priority data needs that can be met through the HIPAA transaction and clinical standards, as well as other standards setting processes (for example, American National Standards Institute-Accredited Standards Committee (ANSI ASC) X12 and Health Level 7 (HL7)).
- Encourage participation and seek formal representation on data content committees (for example, National Uniform Billing Committee and National Uniform Claim Committee).
- Educate public health practitioners, health services researchers, and other stakeholders about standards issues, working through member organizations as appropriate.
- Promote Consortium efforts and relevant efforts of other data organizations and committees to help ensure continued access to health care information by public health practitioners and by health services researchers, with the appropriate safeguards for confidentiality of individually identifiable data.

Our overall strategy for achieving this mission builds on the recommendations of the Steering Committee and incorporates the Education Strategy Report that was prepared by The Lewin Group and the National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO) in conjunction with the Education Work Group dated May 2001. Since July 2001, the Consortium has focused on three major and complementary projects.

1. *Web-based Resource Center:* The Web-based Resource Center will track and publish information about development and implementation efforts related to health data standards and administrative data standards and integration across States and programs.
2. *Health Care Services Reporting Guide:* The Health Care Services Reporting Guide will provide a standardized format for reporting health care service data that is compatible with the 837 Health Claim transaction set standards identified by HIPAA. This guide is intended to provide assistance in developing and executing the electronic transfer of health care systems data for reporting purposes to local, state, and federal agencies that utilize the data for monitoring utilization rates, assessing patterns of health care quality and access, and other purposes required by legislative and regulatory mandates.
3. *Business and Marketing Plan:* The three-year business plan will lay out the methods and strategies for securing of funds to support and to promote standards development activities such as the above projects, others developed by Consortium members as well as projects developed by non-members. All projects will be formally critiqued through a selection process before gaining support of the Steering Committee.

In addition, projects will be developed by the Overcoming Barriers/Strategic Planning Work Group.

Work Group Project Objectives

Web-based Resource Center Work Group

The primary objectives for the Web-based Resource Center (WRC) Project are:

1. To design and develop a website with a user-friendly search and navigational system intended primarily to serve the needs of public health and health services research stakeholders.
2. To develop and provide quality Web-based educational materials, which aid in health data standardization and data sharing across public sector and private sector health programs.
3. To develop and maintain a Web-accessible list of existing health data standards and administrative data standards and standards development activities, providing their context and identifying their relevance to public

health. This will include an overview about the importance of the standards and, when linking to others' standards efforts, clearly identify how their approach impacts the public health process and client outcomes.

4. To develop other content material including: an inventory, categorization and annotation of existing Web-based resources that provide education and information on health data and administrative data standardization issues, existing and developmental activities; a report on the educational needs and training resources capacities of public health practitioners, health researchers and educators as related to standards, focusing on Web-based media.
5. To continue to improve the educational value and communicative utility of the Web-based Resource Center through ongoing evaluation of feedback from stakeholders.

The primary focus of PHDSC in carrying out these objectives is to play an essential role in educating the public health and health services research communities on data standards issues. This is done by convening and educating local, State, and national health services research and public health entities about data standards issues through the Internet. Additionally, the website will facilitate and promote the communication and dissemination of current standards information for those seeking to incorporate these standards into their practices.

Health Care Services Data Reporting (Guide) Work Group

The primary objectives for the Health Care Services Data Reporting Guide (HCSDR) Project are:

1. To identify data elements common to public reporting and map them to the technical specifications of the Health Care Service Data Reporting Guide.
2. To develop a guide based on a consensus process collaborating with the stakeholders within the public health community.
3. To develop Web-based educational material in order to promote and educate the public health and health services research communities about the benefits of the guide.
4. To collaborate with other Consortium workgroups such as the Web-based Resource Center Work Group (WRC WG) and the Business Development and Marketing Work Group (BDM WG) as the HCSDR WG develops the guide. This collaboration will aid the HCSDR WG in prioritizing and focusing on educational materials needed to enhance the Consortium's activities to promote data standardization for public health programs.

The primary focus of PHDSC in carrying out these objectives is to play an essential role in educating the public health and health services research communities on data standards for administrative data. This is done by convening and educating local, State, and national health services research and public health entities about the X12N claims and encounter data standards (X12N 837).

Business Development & Marketing Work Group

The primary objectives for the Business and Marketing Plan Project are:

1. To develop and maintain a Consortium business plan
2. To identify and document sources to support the core functions of the Consortium.
3. To identify and promote potential funders and partners for implementing projects that incorporate standards issues pertinent to Consortium members
4. To develop and incorporate the selection criteria necessary to select and endorse projects identified by Consortium members.
5. To plan and promote the solicitation of appropriate projects, both internal and external to the Consortium.
6. To recommend to the Consortium's Steering Committee the approval of selected project proposals from Consortium members or others interested in standards for public health and health services research.
7. To incorporate a marketing strategy for the Consortium projects or business opportunities to public health, health services researchers, and the healthcare industry.
8. To communicate and coordinate with the Education Work Group (ED WG) and other Consortium workgroups the Consortium's accomplishments through the use of educational strategies to promote data standards.

The primary focus of PHDSC in carrying out these objectives is to play an essential role in educating the public health and health services research communities on data standards first in the area of HIPAA but also other data standards areas relevant to the public health community. This is done by convening and educating local, State, and national health services research and public health entities about the added value for public health capabilities. It is difficult to ignore the healthcare industry standards when information systems such as hospital discharge databases, disease registries (e.g., tumor registries, reportable disease databases), trauma registries, vital statistics, and immunization registries that are public health surveillance databases, rely on healthcare encounters to trigger data reporting.

Overcoming Barriers/Strategic Planning Work Group

The primary objectives for this Work Group are:

1. Develop and maintain a strategic vision for the Consortium, working with the Business Development and Marketing Work Group.
2. For each priority barrier, develop and implement specific strategies for overcoming that barrier in migrating to national standards in public health.
3. Develop selection criteria to allow for recommendation of strategies to the Consortium. These criteria will allow the workgroup to prioritize and recommend implementation of project strategies to the Steering Committee. Top priorities of the OB/SP WG include developing a clear mandate for

public health and health services research, developing unified national leadership, and improving the levels of readiness at the state and local levels.

4. Work with the Health Care Services Data Reporting Work Group (HCSDR WG), the Web-based Resource Center Work Group (WRC WG) and other Consortium workgroups as they develop projects to promote and communicate data standardization for public health programs. This collaboration will aid the OB/SP WG in communicating the barriers, strategies to address those barriers, and the immediate and long-term outcomes of those strategies of the Consortium.