Public Health Data Standards Consortium
Conference Call – March 3, 1999
Minutes

Participants: Patrick Whitaker, Alan Simms, Anne Elixhauser, Ted Jarrell, Tom
Doremus, Roxeanne Andrews, Pam Akison, Bob Davis, Laverne Snow, Charlie
Rothwell, Denise Love, Marjorie Greenberg, Jerry O'Keefe, Hetty Khan, Jane Harman

- Introduction and review of minutes
  The conference call, chaired by Marjorie Greenberg, began at 3:30 with
  introductions. Then the minutes of the previous Consortium meeting held in Atlanta
  on January 24-25, 1999, were reviewed and accepted with no corrections. Marjorie
  explained that these meeting minutes would be used to publicize the Consortium
  more broadly.

- Update of small group activities
  Participants gave an update of the progress of the various small groups that were
  established at the previous meeting:
  - Pam Akison would be looking at the ANSI by-laws the following week to help
    determine a process for carrying out the business of the Consortium. Pam
    explained that the agenda for the NAPHSIS meetings has already been set;
    however, a discussion of the Consortium will take place at the business meeting.
    The NAPHSIS Executive Board supports the Consortium.
  - Anne stated that AHCPR would be having several presentations this spring on
    the HCUP database. She expressed interest in incorporating some information
    about the work of the Consortium into these presentations. The group decided
    educational material would need to be standardized so they all present the same
    message. The education group will focus on this more fully. Denise Love will
    follow up with Elliot Stone and Walter Suarez, who volunteered for the
    education group.
  - Participants were encouraged to sign up for the listserv. To subscribe, send an e-
    mail to LISTSERV@LIST.NIH.GOV with the following in the body of the
    message: SUBSCRIBE PH-CONSORTIUM-L *your name*. To send mail to the
    list, address your e-mail message to PH-CONSORTIUM-L @list.nih.gov
    Hetty will send out a test message to subscribers.

- Report of NUBC/NUCC meetings
  Marjorie reported on her presentation about the Consortium at the joint executive
  meeting of the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) and National Uniform
  Claim Committee (NUCC) held in Baltimore on February 17, 1999. Her
  presentation focused on the role of public health and research in the context of
  HIPAA's Administrative Simplification provisions and the recommendations from
  the November 2-3, 1998 workshop. One of the goals and recommendations was to
  increase public health representation on these content committees.

- ➢ At the meeting, Marjorie presented the request of the Consortium for two seats, namely, one representing the federal perspective and one the State perspective, on each of these content committees. She was asked to present these requests in writing but assured that the Consortium's nominees would be welcome to attend the upcoming May 1999 meetings of the committees. Participants decided that Marjorie would write the letters of request on behalf of the Consortium. Marjorie already serves as the federal representative on the NUBC. A discussion followed regarding potential candidates for these seats. Possible candidates presented were Barbara Rudolph, Director of the Bureau of Health Information, as the state representative to the NUCC; Bob Davis, Director, SPARCS, New York Department of Health, as the state representative to the NUBC ; and either Denise Koo, Director, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Informatics, EPO, CDC or another CDC representative as the federal representative to the NUCC. Denise Love will contact Barbara regarding her interest and availability for attendance at the NUCC meeting in May. Selected representatives will be requested to attend, the NUBC meeting in Chicago on May 11-12, or the NUCC meeting, also to be held in Chicago on May 4-5 based on their assignment. In the meantime, Marjorie agreed to send out an email to the entire steering committee seeking the opinions of those who were not present on the call. There is an option of sending first a generic letter of request for representation, then forwarding the selected names at a later date, or waiting to send the letter of request and names when confirmation of representatives has been made.

- ➢ Marjorie also reported that the major standards development organizations and content committees named in the HIPAA legislation, such as the NUBC, NUCC, X12, HL7, NCPDP, ADA and WEDI, are contemplating the establishment of a National Uniform Data Committee (NUDC) to coordinate the work of maintenance and modification of the standards. This committee would identify the appropriate standards development organization or content committee to address specific data maintenance requests.

- • Report of X12 meetings – Bob Davis
  - ➢ Bob Davis and Hetty Khan attended the ASC X12 meetings held in Dallas, Texas on February 7-12, 1999. Bob reported that the workgroups at the X12 meetings were in the phases of finalizing the implementation guides to present to the Department of Health and Human Services. Hetty and he attended the 275 (claim attachment) and the 837 (health care claim) Workgroups to present our Consortium activities. The groups are quite interested in our work and would be interested in our proposals.

  - ➢ Bob also attended the TG3 (Business and Information Modeling) group, which has created a relational structure of the data elements found in the HIPAA implementation guide. The following is part of an e-mail sent out by Bob after his return from the X12 meetings:
  - ➢
    You had asked me to come up with some boilerplate for the EDI

neophytes. I knew that I would not have to re-invent that wheel, but until I went to Dallas I didn't realize how much of what we need is already done and done in a comprehensible way. I think all we really need to do with each data element resolution sent out for comment that would involve ANSI X12 standards is to publish the Web site where the information is available with a short "here is what you find" narrative. The group doing this work is called TG3 - Business and Information Modeling Task Group. The URL for the Business Primer, which has everything I would even think of putting in a companion document, is http://www.wpc-edi.com/models/HCPrimer/PRIMER.htm.

The main Web site for this group, http://www.disa.org/x12/X12n/TG3.htm, has a subsection titled Data Model: Health Care EDI Transactions: Data Model. When you go to that page you can download the ANSI data model in an ACCESS 97 database. This database is the guts of what will become a Web accessible user friendly data dictionary. The Web part is not yet done but clearly a soon to be started project of TG3. The ACCESS database downloadable from this site is already good. Planned enhancements to that are the inclusion of code sets and aliases for each of the data elements. FYI this is the group that I will start attending regularly as part of my involvement at ANSI. Since this is in the development phase, suggestions on how to make the database and the subsequent Web pages more useable for a wider audience I know will be well received. So the bottom line here is give me your comments.

Bob intends to work closely with this group to ensure that the needs of public health are met.

- Discussion of CSTE Annual meeting, June 30, 1999
  - ➢ CSTE representative Jerry Gibson was unable to participate in the conference call. Therefore, this discussion was postponed. Marjorie will inquire as to the location of this meeting (subsequently learned to be in Madison, WI). Bob suggested that, with the growth of the Consortium to include members from the different states, members might be able to represent Consortium activities at meetings that occur in their geographic region.

- Discussion of Test Case Data Elements
  - ➢ The Consortium had decided to begin to establish business cases for the collection of the two data elements: Mother's Medical Record Number and Race/Ethnicity. This will test the process of gaining consensus on information necessary for presentation to the SDOs. Bob had written a business case for Mother's Medical Record Number, and Anne Elixhauser had composed a case for the collection of Race/Ethnicity. These resolutions have been distributed to the test case data elements group and are close to being ready for a broader discussion on the listserv. After some discussion, participants agreed that a standard template will be established based on the basic format used and would include arguments in opposition to the resolution, and related research and

education. Anne, Bob and Hetty will work on this, as well as boilerplate to accompany the templates on the listserv. It was discussed that there is new research that identifies disparities in providers' treatments of patients by race and gender. Providers are also concerned that information obtained from the collection of race and ethnicity may be used against them. There must be arguments for the collection of such data elements to the benefit of the public good. Concerns were also voiced regarding the actual collection of the race and ethnicity data by mere observation. This would be difficult to do with the new OMB directives, permitting reporting of more than one race. There is an OMB Workgroup looking at how to tabulate the data. Information can be found at http://www.whitehouse.gov/wh/eop/omb The information will be found under miscellaneous documents.

➢ Denise reported that NAHDO had written to Dr. Detmer, then chair of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), regarding some of these issues concerning the collection of race and ethnicity. Marjorie informed Denise that the NCVHS has agreed to hold a discussion about this at the June 23-24 full Committee meeting. Jane Harman and Anne will be assisting in setting up this session and welcome suggestions for participants. It will be important to have states report on the accuracy and utility of the data they currently collect.

The conference call ended at 5:30 with a summary of the actions taken.