



# Getting ThEHR

Standards Collaborative  
Fall 2008 Partnership Conference



# SNOMED CT Implementation Strategy Project

Partnership Conference  
All SCWG

Dr. Bob Dolin

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## About me...

- Bob Dolin, MD, FACP, FACMI (BobDolin@gmail.com)
  - HL7
    - Chair-elect, HL7 Board of Directors
    - Co-chair, HL7 Structured Documents WG
    - Co-editor, HL7 Clinical Document Architecture
    - Co-editor, “Using SNOMED CT in HL7 Version 3”
  - US HITSP
    - Co-chair, HITSP Foundations Committee
  - SNOMED
    - Prior member, SNOMED International Editorial Board
    - Prior member, IHTSDO Content Committee
    - Responsible for Kaiser Permanente’s enterprise-wide SNOMED CT deployment.
  - Semantically Yours, LLC
    - Healthcare interoperability standards consultant



## Agenda Review

- Objectives of this presentation
- SNOMED CT Strategy overview
- Questions / Discussion
- Next steps



## Objectives

- Introduce the “Pan-Canadian SNOMED CT Implementation Strategy” Project
- Solicit feedback on the strategy



## About the project...

- The Standards Collaborative (in response to Jurisdictional Early Adopter White Paper; increasing demand for support; and the need to operationalize work items aimed at increasing uptake) launched the development of a “Pan-Canadian SNOMED CT Implementation Strategy”
- The objective of the strategy is to facilitate a harmonized approach of the jurisdictions by addressing uptake, deployment, implementation, and sustainability; and to guide tactical recommendations.
- The strategy will align with Infoway's overarching healthcare IT strategy, “2015: Advancing Canada's Next Generation of Health Care”, and Infoway's technology blueprint, “EHRS Blueprint”.
- Aug '08:        Develop list of topics to be included in strategy;  
  Sep '08:        Refine list of topics and prepare draft strategy;  
  Oct '08:        Finalize strategy.



## Presentations to date

- (Jul 25) Early Adopters
  - Describe how EA white paper was incorporated into strategy
- (Aug 19) CSC
  - Focus on clinical considerations
- (Sep 02) Solutions Architecture Group
  - Focus on EHRs Blueprint integration and tooling considerations
- (Sep 08) SCCC
  - Overview of project and next steps
- (Sep 22) Vendors (CHITTA, ITAC Health)
  - Focus on Point of Service application and tooling considerations
- (Sep 29) Infoway CTO (Dennis Giokas)
  - Focus on next steps
- (Oct 02) Dr. K. Hannah
  - Overview of project and next steps
- (Oct 02) CIHI
  - Focus on query considerations
- (Oct 19) CSC
  - Focus on clinical considerations and clinical prioritization



## Topics overview

- The first step in creating the strategy is to work with stakeholders and develop a list of key topics (such as clinical usability, cross-mapping, subsets).
- Stakeholders include CSC, Early Adopters, Jurisdictions, Vendors, Standards Collaborative Strategic Committee (SCSC), Infoway, SCWG 9, Solutions Architect Group, and others.
- Key topics include:
  - clinical usability, subset and extension development, mapping tools, governance mechanisms, and relationship to EHRS blueprint.



## List of strategic implementation topics

- **Introduction:** current state, high-level SNOMED CT benefits
- **Point of service application**
  - **Clinical:** usability, patient safety, subsets\*
  - **EHRi connection:** connection models, cross-mapping, use in HL7 V3
  - **Application:** pan-Canadian layer, deployment, maintenance, history, post-coordination, data reconciliation
- **Health Information Access Layer: terminology services**
- **EHR Infostructure: storage models**
- **SNOMED CT query considerations:** required skill sets, query considerations, use of subsets
- **Implementation tooling support:** terminology server, subset database, association/tracking database, query/subset tool, workflow tool, mapping tools
- **SNOMED CT Governance\*:** prioritization, interaction with IHTSDO and HL7, submissions, extensions, subsets, cross-mappings, legacy data, conformance
- **Implementation roadmap:** incremental and prioritized interoperability, interim strategies, long term vision

\* Identified as a key topic by Early Adopters



## Next Step

- The next step in creating the strategy is to provide strategic considerations for moving forward, suggestions for the role Infoway could play, and best practices and lessons learned for each topic.
- While the intent of the strategy is to be as concrete as possible, it is meant to be strategic rather than tactical, and it is understood that a fully optimized SNOMED CT implementation can be application-dependent.



## Draft example of a Consideration: PoS EHRi connection

Several models exist for establishing a connection to the EHRi. Two extremes:

- PoS maintains local vocabulary and local extensions with to and from SNOMED CT mapping.
- PoS adopts Pan Canadian subsets and display names with no local extensions; legacy data isn't uploaded into a Shared Health Record.

An optimized SNOMED CT implementation for a PoS application lies somewhere in between these extremes.

### Considerations

**Consideration 1:** PoS applications should look to Pan Canadian SNOMED CT implementation recommendations before developing a local solution.

**Consideration 2:** PoS adoption of Pan Canadian subsets and display names will more greatly enable interoperability than will a strategy based on the ongoing use of local codes with SNOMED CT mapping.

**Consideration 3:** Cross mappings from local codes to and from SNOMED CT should be use case driven, and should adhere to a written QA policy.

**Consideration 4:** PoS applications should be able to import and export SNOMED CT in a format defined by the "Using SNOMED CT in HL7 Version 3" guide.

### Example

- A small physician office practice is using a home-grown locally-networked EHR. Pick lists were developed by the physicians for problem list items and in-office procedures. Items on the pick lists have locally agreed upon display names, but are not mapped to any code system. The group wants to become a PoS application connected to the EHRi.



## Questions / Discussion

- Feedback on topics to be addressed by the strategy?
- Feedback on the type of information to be captured for each topic?



## Next Steps

- Additional Partnership Conference discussions
  - Today (3:30-5:00): IHTSDO Constituency
  - Tomorrow (3:30-5:00): SCWG 9
- The strategy includes considerations that will be applicable for Infoway as well as beyond Infoway, including jurisdictions, vendors, and clinicians.
- The strategy will be presented to the SCSC for approval; including prioritization of the considerations.
- A project to operationalize the priority considerations will be launched following SCSC approval.



Thank you