



# Envisioning Data Liquidity: The DCRI- Pew Data Interoperability Project

NIH Collaboratory Grand Rounds

March 22, 2019

James E. Tcheng, MD

Professor of Medicine / Professor of Informatics

Duke Clinical Research Institute / Duke Center for Health Informatics



**DukeHealth**



# DCRI-Pew Data Interoperability Project

- Interoperability of what?
- Why not native data interoperability?
- The DCRI-Pew Project
- Envisioning data liquidity - next steps



# The View from the President's Office



- 2004 - President Bush establishes a 10 year goal to develop the electronic health record (EHR)
- 2009 - President Obama signs ARRA, pushes EHR adoption through incentives, targets full implementation by 2016



# 10 Years & \$36 Billion Dollars Later ... *Are We There Yet?*

## Envisioned

EHR “Meaningful Use”  
Usability and productivity  
Patient engagement  
Effective clinical care  
Population health  
Bending healthcare cost curve  
Better provider work life

Torrent of real-world data  
Big (clinical) data analytics  
Leveraged RCTs via registries

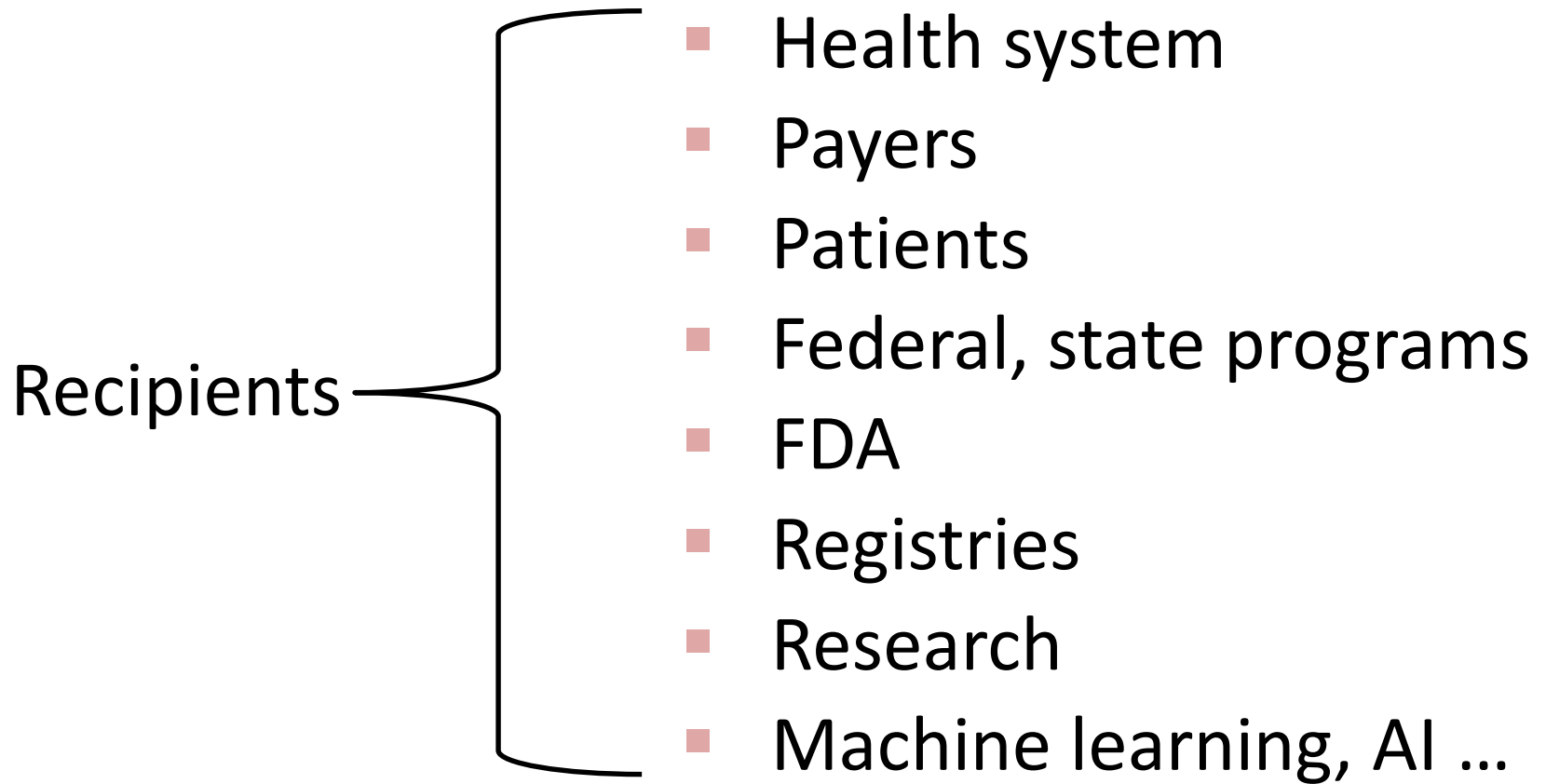
## Reality

EHR meaningless burden  
Death by a thousand clicks  
AVS drivels  
CDS trivial pursuit  
Resource consumption focus  
Cost control and penalties  
NOT!

Puddles of document exchange  
Transactional (admin) data  
Electronic bridge to nowhere

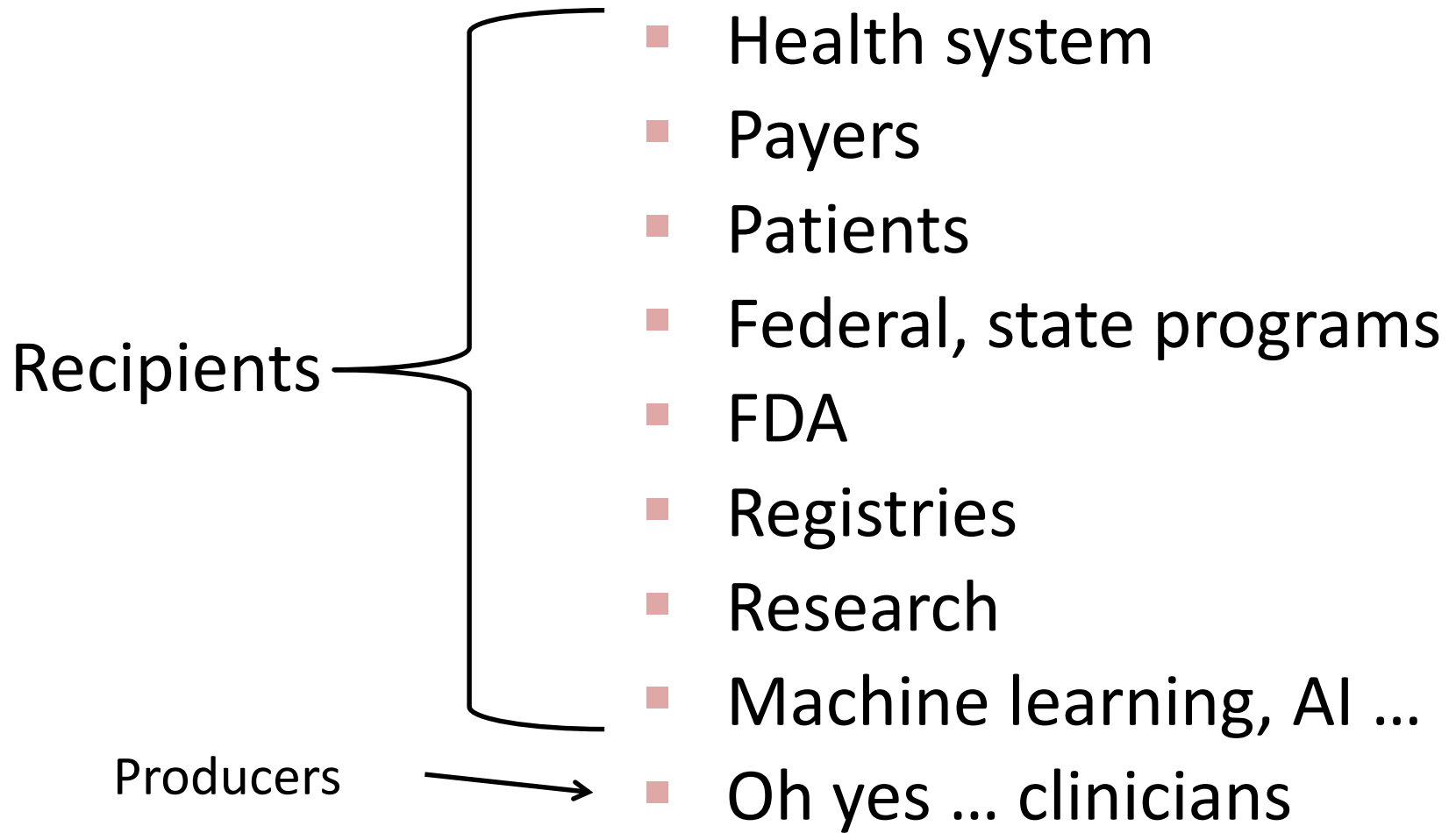


# Data Demand: Multiple Masters





# Data Demand: Multiple Masters



... who are time-challenged, short-staffed, overloaded with information and have increasing expectations placed upon them



# **ARRA HITECH HIT Standards Committee**

## **Clinical Operations Workgroup Report**

**Jamie Ferguson, Chair**  
**Kaiser Permanente**

**John Halamka, Co-chair**  
**Harvard Medical School (& HITSP)**

**20 August 2009**

# HIT Committee: Standards for Interoperability

- Clinical Operations is recommending standards for interoperability **between entities**, *not* within an entity
- Recommended standards should *not* apply to internal data capture, storage or uses – only to **external representation and data exchange** between entities
- Content should be able to be represented in the specified vocabularies and exchanged in the specified standards **at the boundary** between entities, regardless of how it is managed internally
  - Many methods may potentially be used to achieve interoperability standards, e.g., mapping, external services, or **native data capture**



# Edge-Based Interoperability

- SNOMED Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT)
  - International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO)
- Logical Observation Identifiers, Names and Codes (LOINC)
  - Regenstrief Institute for Healthcare
- RxNorm
  - National Library of Medicine

Focus on  
recording  
clinical content

- International Classification of Diseases – Clinical Modification (ICD-9/10-CM)
  - World Health Organization
  - National Center for Health Statistics
- Current Procedural Therapy (CPT)
  - American Medical Association

Focus on  
reimbursement

Search Term: myocardial infarction

SNOMED-CT

Returns 308 matches in 2.33 seconds

Term defined by pathologic, anatomic relationships

No clinical definition

The image shows a screenshot of the SNOMED-CT interface. On the left, a search bar contains the text 'myocardial infarction'. Below the search bar, a table lists 309 matches found in 2.33 seconds. The table has two columns: the search term and the corresponding SNOMED-CT concept name. The first few rows are: 'Myocardial infarction' (Myocardial infarction (disorder)), 'Old myocardial infarction' (Old myocardial infarction (disorder)), 'FH: Myocardial infarction' (Family history: Myocardial infarction (situation)), 'EKG: myocardial infarction' (Electrocardiographic myocardial infarction (finding)), and 'ECG: myocardial infarction' (Electrocardiographic myocardial infarction (finding)).

On the right, the 'Concept Details' page for 'Acute myocardial infarction (disorder)' is shown. The page has tabs for 'Summary', 'Details', 'Diagram', 'Expression', 'Refsets', 'Members', and 'References'. The 'Parents' section lists 'Acute ischemic heart disease (disorder)' and 'Myocardial infarction (disorder)'. The 'Children' section is empty. A blue box highlights the concept name, SCTID: 57054005, and its synonyms: '57054005 | Acute myocardial infarction (disorder) |', 'Acute myocardial infarction', 'Acute myocardial infarction (disorder)', and 'AMI - Acute myocardial infarction'. A light blue box highlights the clinical course: 'Clinical course → Sudden onset AND/OR short duration', and associated morphology: 'Associated morphology → Acute infarct', and finding site: 'Finding site → Myocardium structure'.

Type at least 3 characters ✓ Example: <i>shou fra</i>	
myocardial infarction	
309 matches found in 2.33 seconds.	
Myocardial infarction	Myocardial infarction (disorder)
Old myocardial infarction	Old myocardial infarction (disorder)
FH: Myocardial infarction	Family history: Myocardial infarction (situation)
EKG: myocardial infarction	Electrocardiographic myocardial infarction (finding)
ECG: myocardial infarction	Electrocardiographic myocardial infarction (finding)
MI - Myocardial infarction	Myocardial infarction (disorder)
Acute myocardial infarction	Acute myocardial infarction (disorder)
First myocardial infarction	First myocardial infarction (disorder)
Healed myocardial infarction	Old myocardial infarction (disorder)
Recent myocardial infarction	Recent myocardial infarction (situation)
Silent myocardial infarction	Silent myocardial infarction (disorder)
Aborted myocardial infarction	Coronary thrombosis not resulting in myocardial infarction (disorder)

**Concept Details**

Summary Details Diagram Expression Refsets Members References

**Parents**

- Acute ischemic heart disease (disorder)
- Myocardial infarction (disorder)

**Acute myocardial infarction (disorder)** ☆

SCTID: 57054005

57054005 | Acute myocardial infarction (disorder) |

- Acute myocardial infarction
- Acute myocardial infarction (disorder)
- AMI - Acute myocardial infarction

**Clinical course** → Sudden onset AND/OR short duration

**Associated morphology** → Acute infarct

**Finding site** → Myocardium structure

**Children**



## The New York Times

# *For Big-Data Scientists, 'Janitor Work' Is Key Hurdle to Insights*

By STEVE LOHR AUG. 17, 2014

- ETL: extract, transform, load
- Mappings: syntactic & semantic
  - Map source data tables to destination data model
  - Map source terms → terminologies
  - Map of terminologies ← destination data model
  - Verification of preservation of semantics
- Repeat for every point to point connection
  - ETL not scalable



# How Registries Solve the Data Capture Problem

[Home](#) > [NCDR](#) > [Registries](#) > [Hospital Registries](#) > [CathPCI Registry](#)



NCDR

CathPCI Registry®

## Standardized NCDR data elements and processes

The CathPCI Registry uses standardized data elements and definitions for:

- Patient demographics for diagnostic coronary angiography and percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) procedures
- Patient history/risk factors, cath lab visit indications and coronary lesion information
- Provider and facility characteristics
- PCI Indications, lesion information, intracoronary device utilization and intra/post-procedure events
- 30-day and 1-year follow-up information on patients who had PCI

The registry supports a variety of data entry and submission options including certified third-party vendors and secure web-based entry. [Data collection options](#)

<https://cvquality.acc.org/NCDR-Home/registries/hospital-registries/cathpci-registry>



# How Registries Solve the Data Capture Problem

[Home](#) > [NCDR](#) > [Registries](#) > [Hospital Registries](#) > [CathPCI Registry](#)



NCDR

CathPCI Registry®

Standardized NCDR data elements and processes

The CathPCI Registry uses standardized data elements and definitions for:

- Patient demographics for diagnostic coronary angiography and percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) procedures
- Patient history/risk factors, cath lab visit indications and coronary lesion information
- Provider and facility characteristics
- PCI Indications, lesion information, intracoronary device utilization and intra/post-procedure events
- 30-day and 1-year follow-up information on patients who had PCI

The registry supports a variety of data entry and submission options including certified third-party vendors and secure web-based entry. [Data collection options](#)

<https://cvquality.acc.org/NCDR-Home/registries/hospital-registries/cathpci-registry>



# How Registries Solve the Data Capture Problem

[Home](#) > [NCDR](#) > [Registries](#) > [Hospital Registries](#) > [CathPCI Registry](#)



NCDR

CathPCI Registry®

Standardized NCDR data elements and processes

The CathPCI Registry uses standardized data elements and definitions for:

- Patient demographics for diagnostic coronary angiography and percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) procedures
- Patient history/risk factors, cath lab visit indications and coronary lesion information
- Provider and facility characteristics
- PCI Indications, lesion information, intracoronary device utilization and intra/post-procedure events
- 30-day and 1-year follow-up information on patients who had PCI

The registry supports a variety of data entry and submission options including certified third-party vendors and secure web-based entry. [Data collection options](#)

<https://cvquality.acc.org/NCDR-Home/registries/hospital-registries/cathpci-registry>



# Swivel Chair Interoperability *Wes Rishel*



Clinical Systems



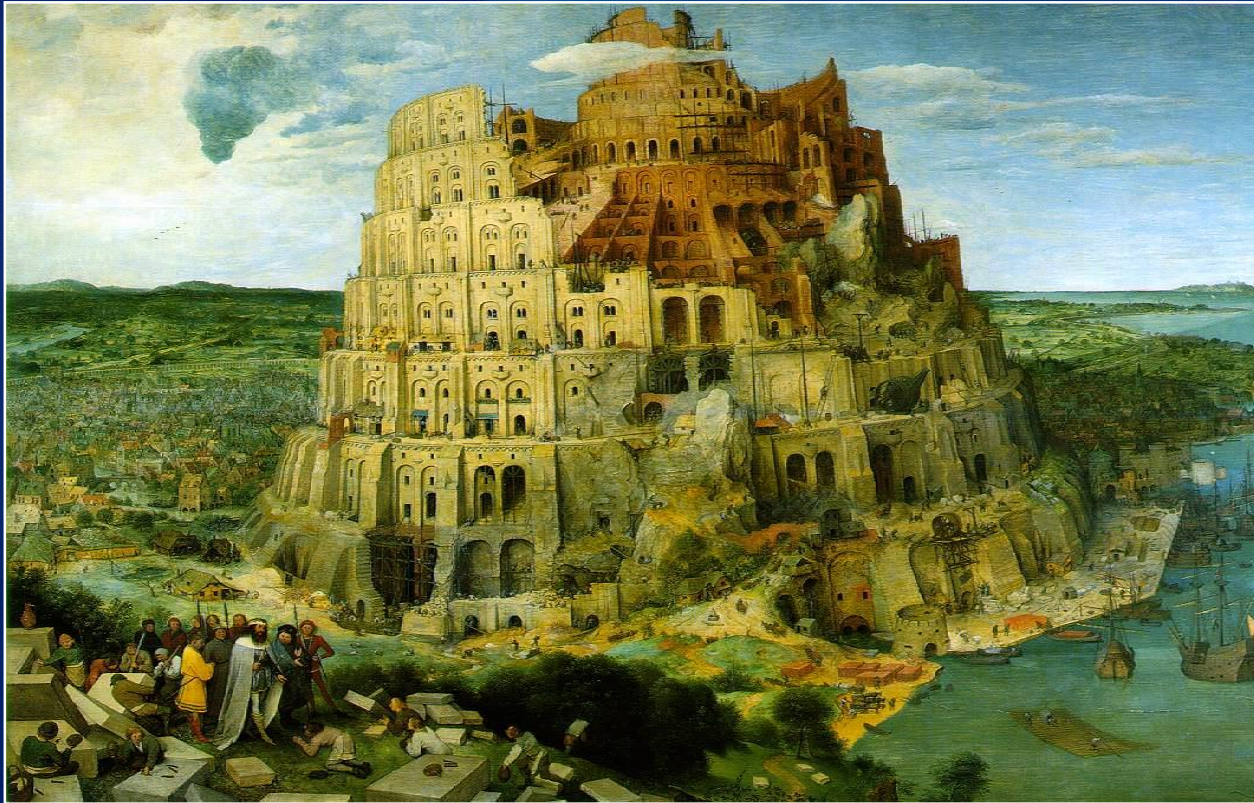
Registry Data Entry

@PaulLomax: The most unbelievable aspect of the Star Trek universe is that every ship they meet has compatible video conferencing facilities ...





# THE Foundational Issue



## Tower of Babel

*Pieter Bruegel the Elder and Pieter Bruegel the Younger, 1563*



# The Big Idea:

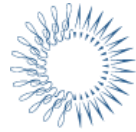
## *Native Data Interoperability, End to End*

---

- Defined (key) clinical concepts
- Key clinical concepts captured as data
- Specified representation of data in database systems
- Data capture integrated into workflow
- Capture once, use many times ...
- And reduce / eliminate need for ETL!



# Project Goals



THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

- Evaluate current state of registries
  - Identify common concepts shared across >20 registries
  - Assess use of data standards for those concepts
- Identify predicate work in CDE interoperability
  - Environmental scan
  - National common data models
- **Create an implementation guide**
  - All-in-one package of recommendations for database developers
  - Catalyze governance, structural, operational, and technical transformations





# Methods

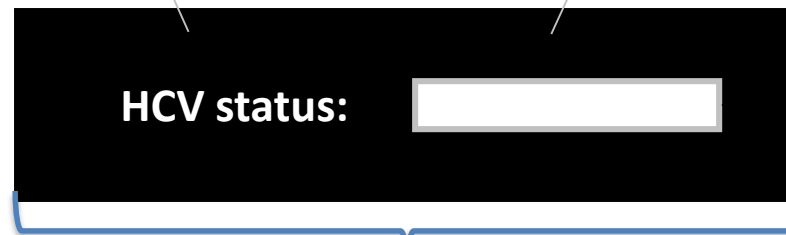
- Perform environmental scan
- Collect registry case report forms (CRFs), data dictionaries, data model representations
- Abstract common clinical concepts
- Determine concordance of data representations, use of data standards
  - Across registries
  - Across national common data models (OMOP, SENTINEL, PCORnet); FHIR representations
- Specify common data elements, key metadata
  - Clinicians
  - Database developers



# What is a Data Element?

Question or prompt  
*May have associated controlled terminology*

Value, result or answer  
*May have associated controlled terminology*



**Data Element**

*May have associated controlled terminology*

- A data element is a question – value pair
- Considered the smallest meaningful unit of data exchange
- Formally defined in ISO/IEC 11179-1 and 11179-3
- Typically have a unique identifier, a definition, and valid values
- Interpretation requires context (e.g., date/time of collection, method of measurement, or person, place or thing to which the data pertains)



Data standards are like toothbrushes:



Data standards are like toothbrushes:

*Everybody agrees we need them, but nobody wants to use anyone else's.*

Various attributions



# US Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI)

<https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/draft-uscdi.pdf>

*Table 1: Draft USCDI Version 1 Data Classes*

Draft USCDI Version 1 Data Classes	
1. Patient name	2. Sex (birth sex)
3. Date of Birth	4. Preferred Language
5. Race	6. Ethnicity
7. Smoking Status	8. Laboratory tests
9. Laboratory values/results	10. Vital signs
11. Problems	12. Medications
13. Medication Allergies	14. Health concerns
15. Care Team members	16. Assessment and plan of treatment
17. Immunizations	18. Procedures
19. Unique device identifier(s) for a patient's implantable device(s)	20. Goals
21. Provenance	22. Clinical Notes





# USCDI – Relevant to Registries?

- Patient name
- Date of birth
- Race
- Smoking status
- Lab values / results
- ~~Problems~~
- ~~Medication allergies~~
- Care team members
- ~~Immunizations~~
- UDI
- ~~Provenance~~
- Sex
- ~~Preferred language~~
- Ethnicity
- Laboratory tests
- Vital signs
- Medications
- ~~Health concerns~~
- ~~Assessment / plan of rx~~
- Procedures
- ~~Goals~~
- ~~Clinical notes~~



# Ethnicity (Reg.CRF's)

Data Element Name (CRF Label)	Permissible Values	Concordance
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino Non Hispanic or Latino	6
Ethnicity	Hispanic of Latino Not Hispanic or Latino Not Disclosed	1
Patient Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino Patient declined to provide Unknown	1
Ethnicity Type	Mexican Mexican-Americano Chicano Puerto Rican Cuban Other Hispanic Latino or Spanish Origin	2
Hispanic	No Unknown Yes	1
Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity	No Yes	2
Hispanic Origin (maternal)	Mexican American Chicano Puerto Rican Cuban Other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino Hispanic, NOS	1
Is Patient of Hispanic Origin?	Yes No Unknown	1
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Ethnicity	Yes No Not Documented	1



# Example: Date of Birth (CDMs, FHIR)

Date of Birth		
Data Element Field Name	Field Type	Concordance
Date of Birth	Date	2 (CCDS, CCRF)
Derived (year_ / month_ / day_of_birth) YEAR_OF_BIRTH, MONTH_OF_BIRTH, DAY_OF_BIRTH	Separate fields	1 (OHDSI)
Patient.birthDate	Date	1 (FHIR)
BIRTH_DATE	Date	2 (PCORnet, Sentinel)



# Key CDE Metadata (data about data)

Question or prompt  
*May have associated controlled terminology*

A diagram showing a black rectangular box representing a data entry field. Inside the box, the text "HCV status:" is written in white. To the right of this text is a white rectangular input field. Two thin white lines point from the text labels on either side of the box to the "HCV status:" text and the input field respectively.

Value, result or answer  
*May have associated controlled terminology*

1. Clinical concept label (human prompt – CRF, data entry screen)
2. Clinical definition
3. Clinical allowed values (human prompt – CRF, data entry screen)
4. Clinical allowed values definitions
5. Database field label
6. Database field data type / format (e.g., char, date, integer, values set)
7. Database field business rules (edit checks, range checks, etc.)
8. Database allowed values (as stored in db)
9. OID
10. Reference ontology concept binding
11. Reference ontology allowed values bindings
12. FHIR references (profiles, resources)
13. Other sources, references, notes

# Recommendation: Sex



1. Clinical concept label: **Sex** [Birth Sex, Sex (Birth Sex)]
2. Clinical definition: **The biological sex of a patient, assigned at birth, not to be confused with the social construct of gender.**
3. Clinical allowed values: **F, M, UNK** [Female, Male, Unknown]
4. Database field label: **SEX, birthsex**
5. Database field data type / format: **Value Set – Char(3)**
6. Database field business rules:
7. Database allowed values: **F | M | UNK**
8. Allowed values definitions: **Female, Male, Unknown - a proper value is applicable, but not known. Includes ambiguous, variations of unknown, and variations of null.**
9. Reference ontology concept: **LOINC: LL3324-2, Sex assigned at birth**
10. Reference ontology allowed values: **LOINC: LA3-6, LOINC: LA2-8, LOINC: LA4489-6**
11. FHIR references: <https://www.hl7.org/fhir/us/core/StructureDefinition-us-core-patient.html>; FHIR Resource: <https://www.hl7.org/fhir/us/core/StructureDefinition-us-core-birthsex.html>; Value Set: <https://www.hl7.org/fhir/us/core/ValueSet-us-core-birthsex.html>
12. Sources / references / notes: **2015 CCDS and USCDI, C-CDA Birth Sex observation**



# Candidate Common Concepts → CDEs

## 7 As Is (more or less)

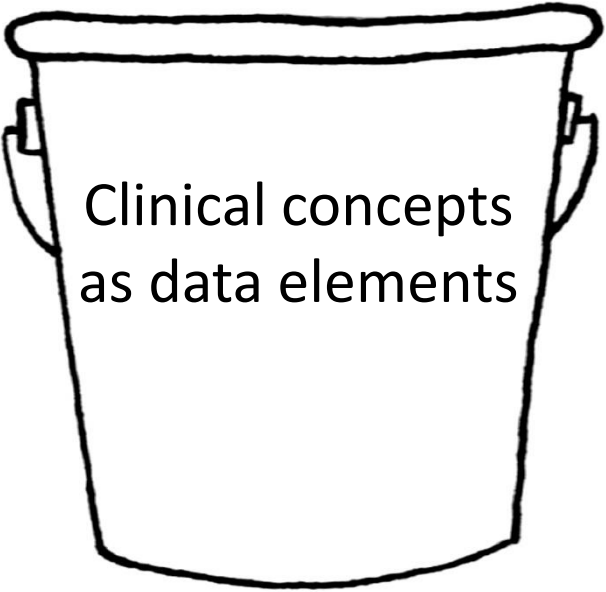
- Patient name
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Procedures
- UDI

## 8 Adjusted (select modifications)

- Vital signs: height, weight, BP, pulse
- Lab results (via model)
- Medications (via model)
- Care team: only doctor
- Smoking status (via model)
- \*EtOH use
- \*Substance abuse
- \*Vital status (death)




# Steps to Native Data Interoperability



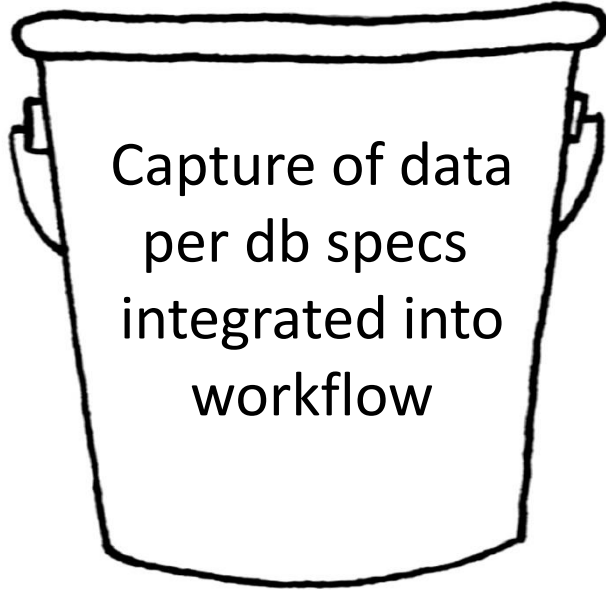
Clinical concepts  
as data elements

Professional societies  
Academic consortia  
FDA



Data elements  
as database  
specifications

Informatics modeling  
Regulation (ONC, ASC X12)  
HIT vendors



Capture of data  
per db specs  
integrated into  
workflow

HIT vendors  
Healthcare entities  
Professional societies



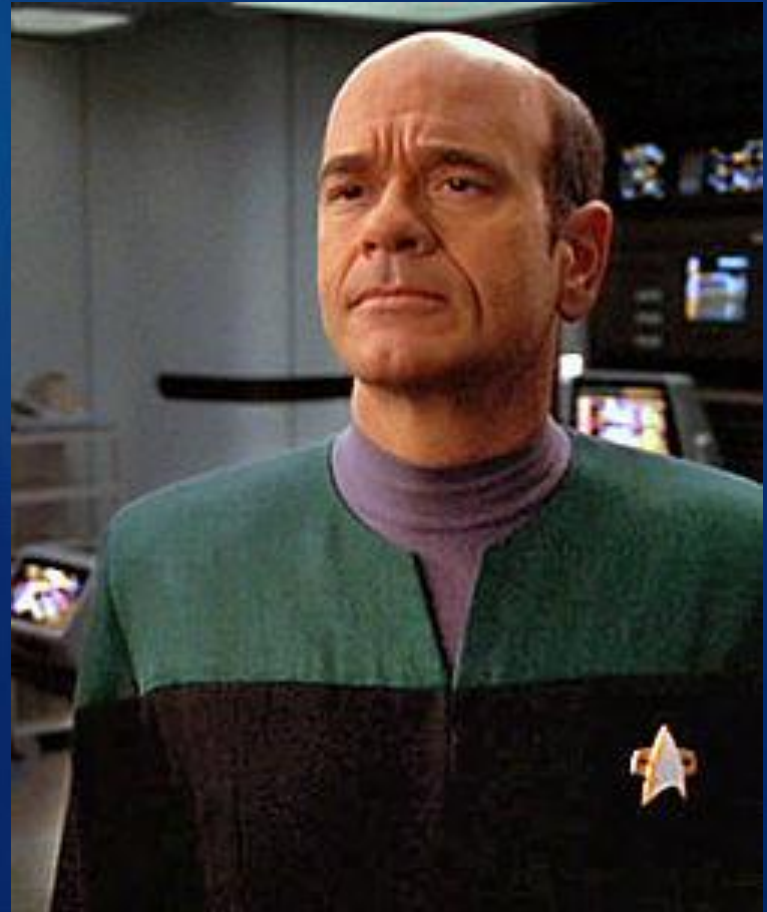
# FDA Coordinated Registry Networks

---

- Orthopedics (joint replacement) - ICOR
- Vascular intervention – VISION (RAPID)
- Cardiovascular disease – CDCRN (TAVR, etc.)
- CIEDs – EP PASSION
- Prostate ablation – SPARED
- Robotics
- Women’s Health Technology
- Hernia repair
- Neurology (stroke intervention) – DAISI
- Breast implants – NBIR
- GI (bariatric devices) – CATNIP
- TMJ
- Venous infusion catheters – VANGUARD

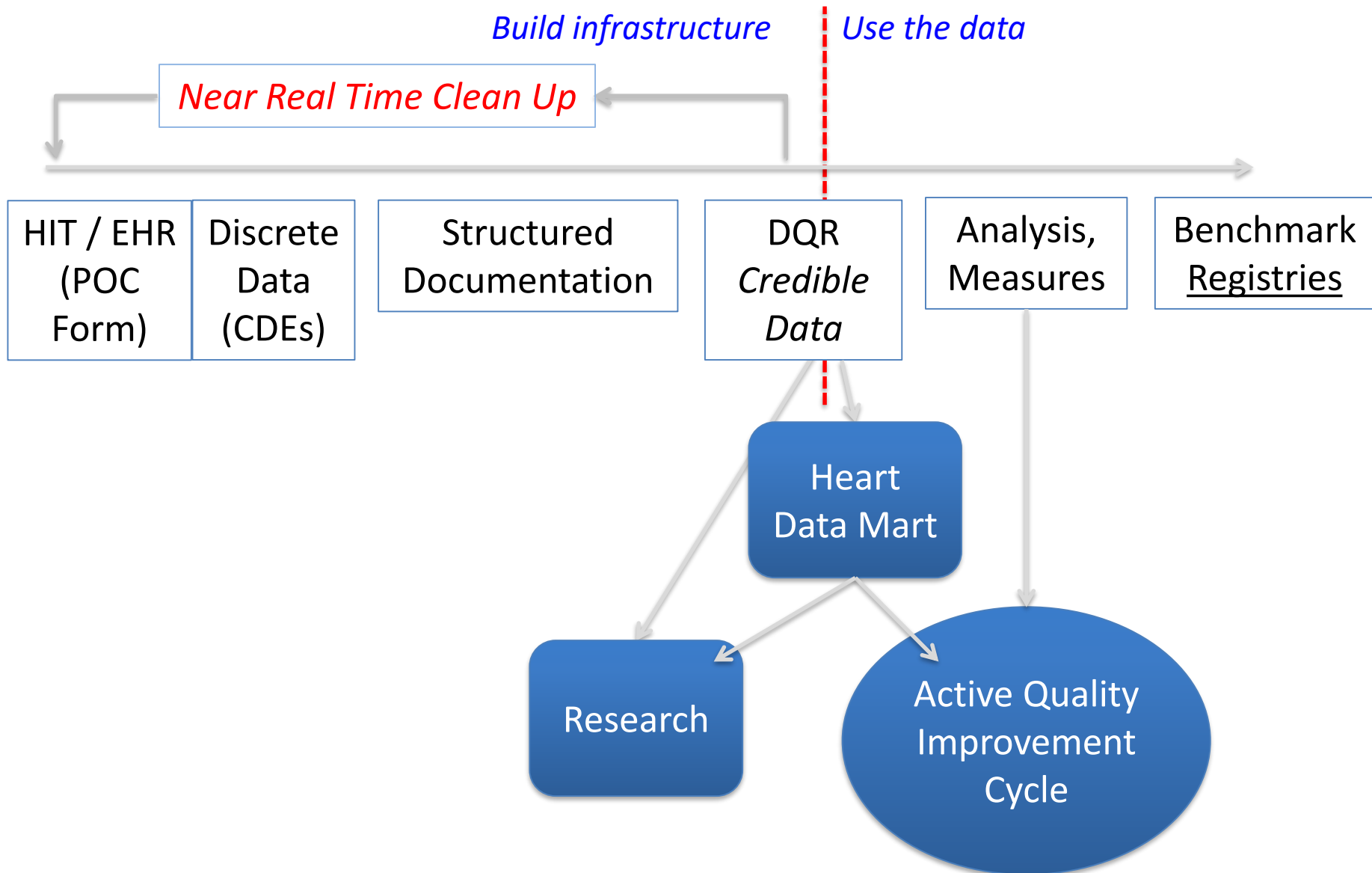


**“Dammit, Jim, I’m a Doctor, Not a Computer!”**





# Duke Heart Center - Dataflow End State





# Concurrent Data Capture: Key Concepts

- Capture data once, use many times
- Directed data capture, relevant (pertinent) charting, charting by exception
- Distributed data capture, integrated into workflow
- Team-based documentation
- Data persistence, data liquidity
- Data compilation into views (reports)
- Semantic interoperability
- = Structured reporting



# Interoperability Loci

---

- Clinical care ↔ Registries ↔ Research ↔ Reporting
  - Common, cross-registry / EHI data elements
  - Minimum core (domain-specific) data elements
  - Quality and outcome measures (typically summative)
  - UDI: reference data in GUDID, AUDI databases
- Data transfer, representation
  - HL7 v2+, FHIR
- Common data models (generic data aggregation)
  - SENTINEL, PCORNet, i2b2, OMOP OHDSI
- Analytics
  - Data aggregation and analysis
  - Distributed analysis



# Is Healthcare Changing for the Better ...

## *The Common Denominator*



Clinical documentation  
Administrative reporting  
Clinical decision support  
Quality and performance  
Analytics, research  
Device safety, surveillance  
Machine learning, AI  
Big Data  
Etc., etc., etc.



# From Concepts to Action

*Creating the ecosystem ...*

- Registry Community – core clinical CDEs
  - Technical (database) representation for implementation across registries
- FDA - Coordinated Registry Networks
- ONC - USCDI open comment period
- Informatics – terminology modeling
  - HL7 Common Clinical Registry Framework
  - Modeling – Clinical Information Modeling Initiative
- Clinical Community – structured reporting!



*Thank You!*

james.tcheng@duke.edu

Visit the Project website:  
<https://dcricri.org/registry-data-standards>