

What Are the Benefits to Standardizing Phenotype Definition?

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There are great efficiencies to be had in standardizing these types of definitions or reusing them and repurposing them for different studies, rather than to create their own. So a number of research networks and research laboratories have created or have informal libraries or dictionaries, if you will, of these types of definitions. And there's tremendous efficiencies to be gained in starting with something like this for your research. There still is a lot of variation across individual organizations and EHR systems on how they code their data natively. So laboratory data may not be natively coded in a reference standard such as LOINC, medications may not be in a common terminology such as RxNorm, so there are mappings and mapping decisions that need to be made at each site to even move the data. So there's still a fair amount of work and potential for variation, but this provides a very good starting point.