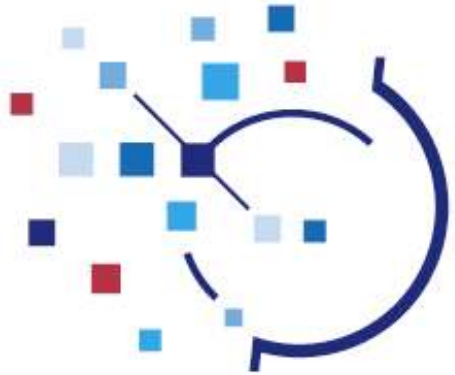
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY
STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION



SNOMED CT
and
Semantic interoperability

Colleen Brooks

&

Beverly Knight

HL7 Kyoto May 2009

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY
STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

About Colleen

- Current:
  - Principal Standards, MOHH Pte Ltd Singapore
  - Chair Member Operational Liaison Forum (MOLF) IHTSDO
- Background
  - Standards development Australia
  - Clinical Software design
  - Pharmacist

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY
STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

Presentation

- IHTSDO (aka SNOMED SDO)
- Canada's experience in semantic interoperability

About IHTSDO

- International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization

- Formed in Denmark, 23rd March 2007
- Area of standardization:
  - Terminology for interoperability of electronic health information

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY
STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

The purpose of the IHTSDO

- To acquire, own and administer the rights to SNOMED CT and other relevant assets (collectively, the "**Terminology Products**");
- To develop, maintain, promote and enable the uptake and correct use of its Terminology Products around the world;
- To undertake activities required to achieve these purposes

Status of the IHTSDO

- The IHTSDO is a Danish Association
- The Association is a registered not-for-profit entity in Denmark [23rd March 2007]
- Articles of Association detail the who, what, where and how of the Association
  - http://www.ihtsdo.org/about-us/governance/
- The Association owns the intellectual property
- Intellectual property in SNOMED CT and antecedent works (SNOMED 3.5, RT etc.) transferred to the IHTSDO [26th April 2007]

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

Status of the IHTSDO

- Members are countries
  - Eligible Members are all voting members of the United Nations
- The Members control the organization and the Articles of Association; [subject to Danish Law]
- Current Members:

  Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America

Status of the IHTSDO

- Physical office in the IT University in Copenhagen
  - Web site www.ihtsdo.org
- Three year support contract with the College of American Pathologists [First IHTSDO Release July 2007]
- New roles within the IHTSDO
  - Chief Executive Officer [Jennifer Zelmar]
  - Chief Terminologist [Kent Spackman]
  - Chief Quality Officer [Jane Millar]
  - Chief Technical Architect [John Gutai]

What's different now?

- Articles of association
- **2.3 Principles**
  - 2.3.1 The Association will seek to govern itself and conduct all of its activities in accordance with principles of openness, fairness, transparency and accountability to its Members.

What's different now?

- Open collaborative working
- For access to IHTSDO committee documents, work groups, project groups and discussion forums:
  - Send email to support@ihtsdo.org

What's different now?

- The Association's work is funded by annual Membership fees paid by the Member nations
  - "Fair share" is determined by World Bank GNI Atlas
- Use in Member territories does not carry an IHTSDO fee
- Use in non-Member territories comes under a single world-wide license (called an "affiliate license") [more on licensing later]
- SNOMED CT is much more available (no fees for evaluation or for qualifying research projects)
- Affiliate Licenses are free in 49 low income countries

What's different now?

- Genuine and increased intensity of efforts to cooperate and harmonize with other standards bodies
- Joint Initiative (ISO, CEN, HL7, CSDIC)
- Active discussions are ongoing with:
  - HL7, ISO, LOINC, IUPAC, WHO, WONCA, ICN and CDISC
- Other contacts have been made or are planned between IHTSDO and:
  - CEN, IHE, openEHR, RadLex, IEEE & others

What's different now?

- Role of the College of American Pathologists
  - Support Organization, by contract (3 years)
  - Perform maintenance and release
  - NO governance responsibility
  - Name change to reflect changed role and status
    - SNOMED Terminology Solutions (CAP STS)

IHTSDO Organizational Structure

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Standards and the *Infoway* Standards Collaborative

Presented by

About The Standards Collaborative

The *Infoway* Standards Collaborative was established in 2006 for the development, implementation support, maintenance, education and conformance for standards developed and funded by *Infoway*.

The current mandate includes:

- Standards to support the *Infoway* EHR mandate
- Provision of services to support and maintain these standards
- Key liaison role for international Standards Development Organizations (SDO)

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The Portfolio of Standards

Demographic information	Client and provider Service delivery location	In Use Development
Clinical information	Drugs, laboratory, diagnostic imaging Encounters, clinical notes, referrals, conditions	In Use Early Adopters
Public health	Immunizations, outbreaks, case management	In Use Development
Physician Systems	Functional requirements for EMRs	In Use
Clinical orders	Drugs, laboratory	In Use
Administrative	Clinical claims	In Use
Nomenclatures	LOINC®, SNOMED CT®	In Use
2015 Health IT Vision	Patient Access to Quality Care Chronic Disease Management Computerized Physician Order Entry	In Definition

Integrated & Coordinated pan-Canadian Standards Services

Standards Collaborative

Services

- Client Services & SDO Relations
- Development Support
- Implementation Support Services
- Conformance Services
- Maintenance Services
- Education and Training Services
- *Infoway* Standards Collaborative Governance
- Standards Uptake

Members & Stakeholders

- *Infoway* investments projects
- *Non-Infoway*, non-EHR projects
- FPT Ministries
- Health Service Delivery Organizations (HSDO)
- Vendors
- Health care providers
- Academic institutions
- Standards organizations

International SDO Liaison

- *Infoway* is the Canadian organization for the domestic distribution, quality assurance, copyright, maintenance and support of standards through agreements with international Standards Development Organizations
- *Infoway* also supports Canadian delegates to international committees

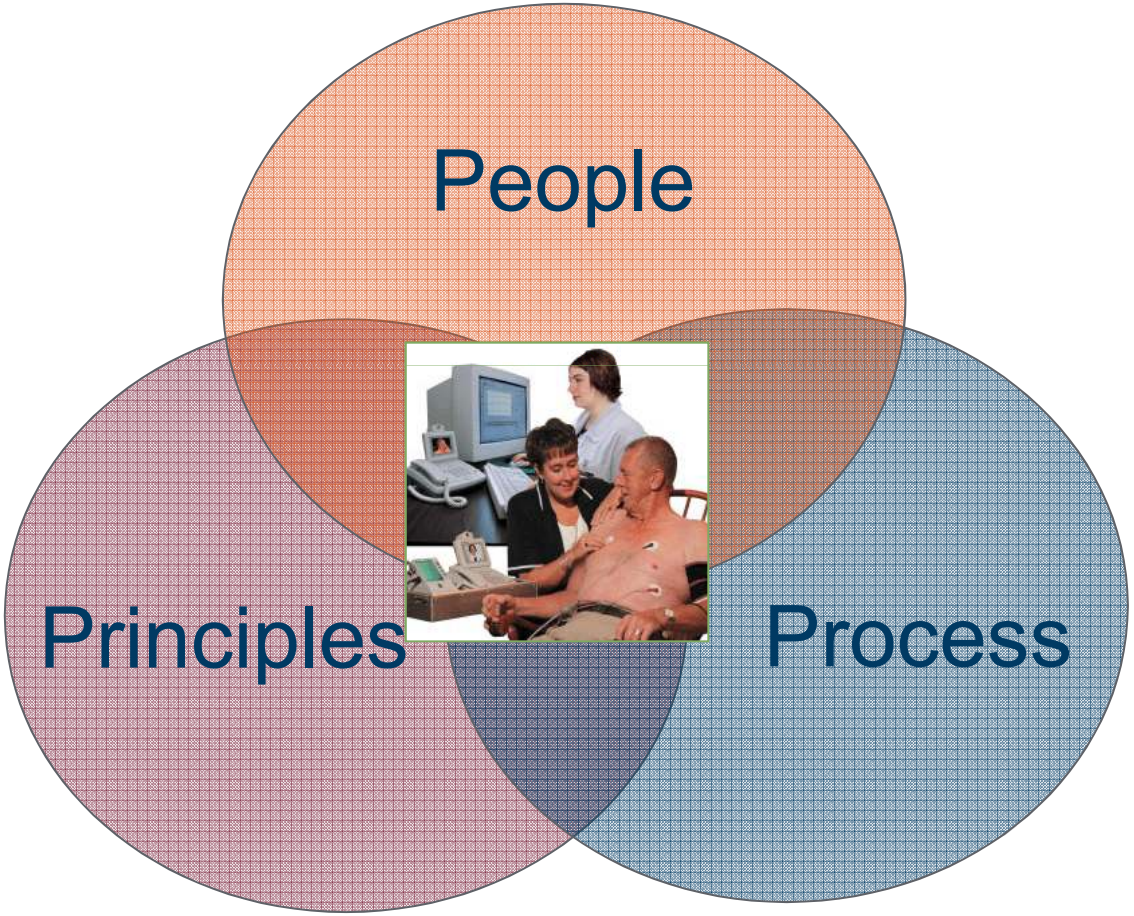
SDO Agreements

- International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (SNOMED CT) Articles of Association
- HL7 Canada Affiliate
- ISO
  - CSA-*Infoway* Memorandum of Understanding
- DICOM

Where are we today?

- Integrated multiple organizations, process and services across numerous standards into a single governance structure and delivery model
- Published maintenance releases for pan-Canadian lab, drug, client and provider, and claims standards
- Delivered over 45 training events serving over 1000 attendees
- Delivered first in the world HL7 V3 certificate program and exam
- Doubled membership from 172 to 351
- Increased conference registration from 90 to 260
- Member of IHTSDO, regular distribution of SNOMED CT across Canada and initiated French translation
- Internationally recognized leadership and expertise

Standards Project Methodologies

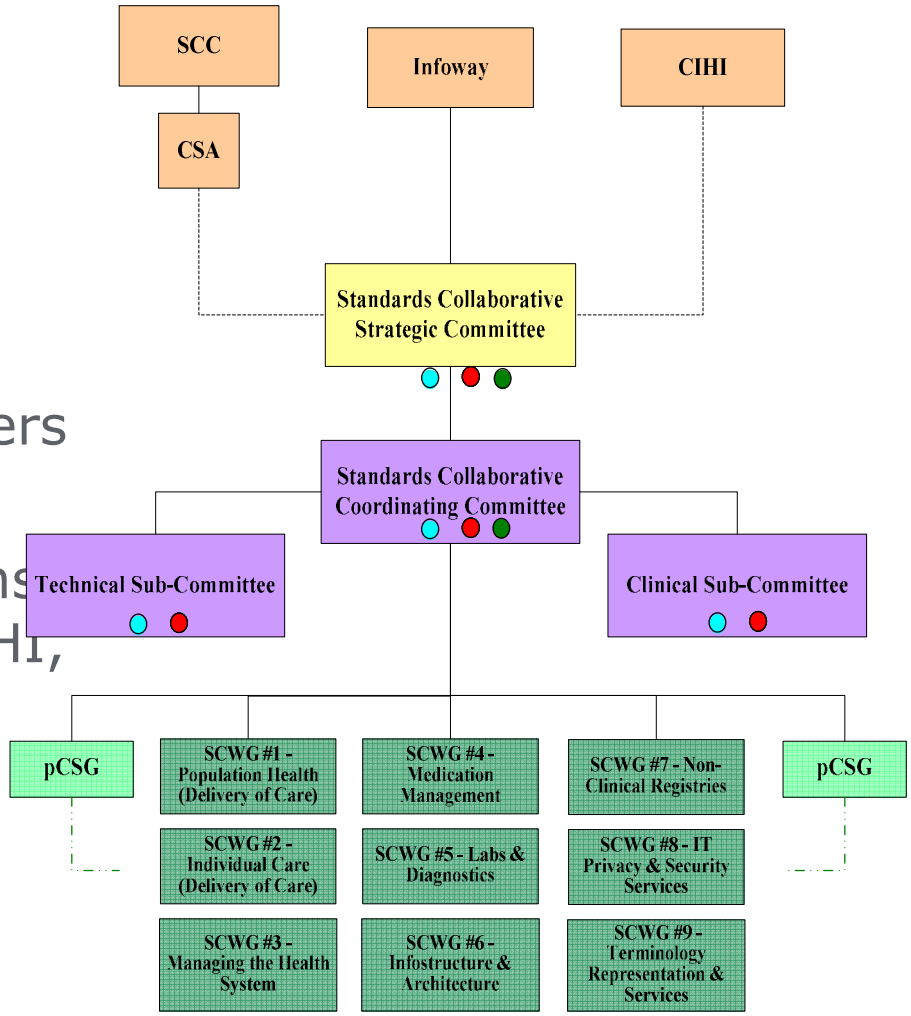


Principles

- Driven by the business of healthcare
- Adopt, Adapt, Develop
- HL7 V3 is required for all new message development for the EHR
- Commitment to pan-Canadian EHR standards
- Standards initiatives within the context of early adopter implementations
- Support early adopters
- Establishing standards is an evolutionary process
- Canada will play a leadership role in influencing EHR international standards
- Partner with other domestic and international standards organizations
- Coordinated via an open, transparent and inclusive Stakeholder Collaboration Process as defined by our stakeholders

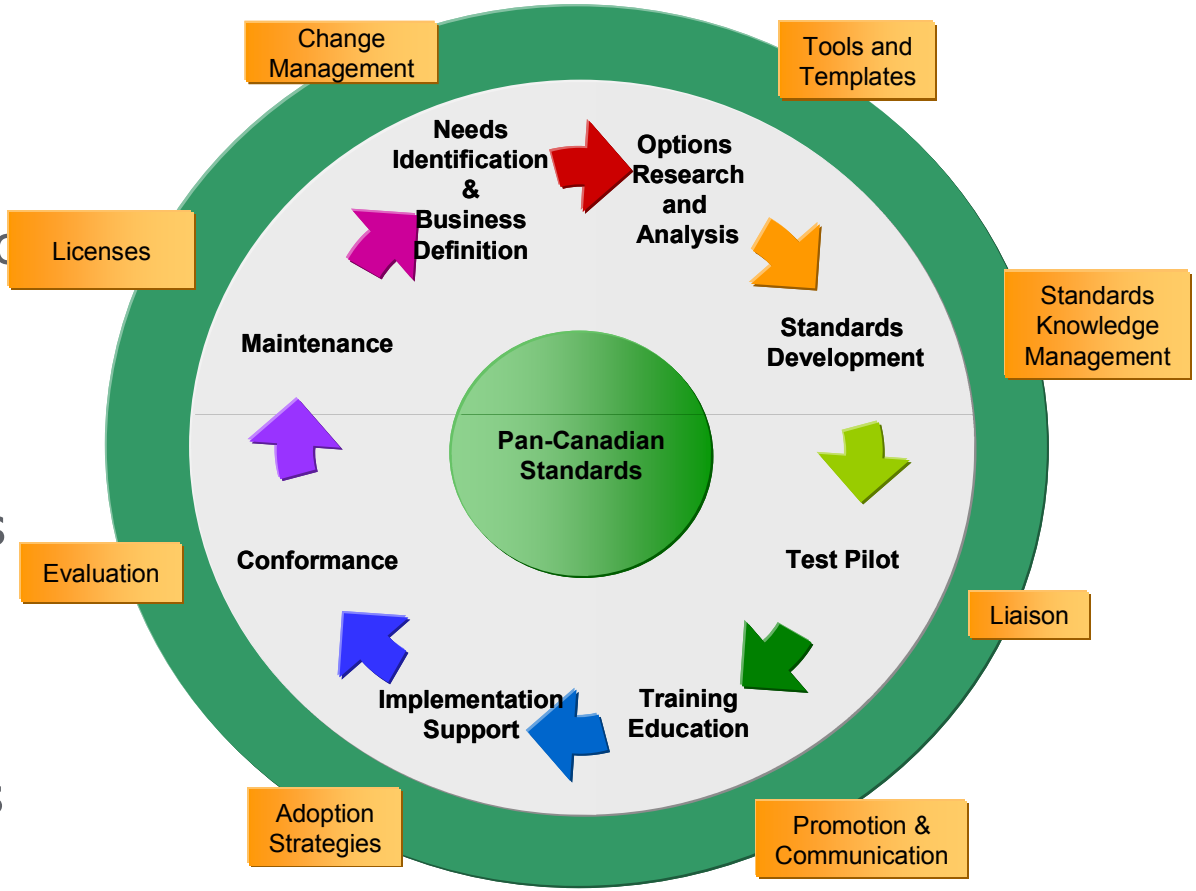
People

- Federal, provincial and territorial MOH
- Physicians, nurses, lab clinicians, pharmacists and dentists
- Private and public payers
- Vendors
- Standards organizations IHTSDO, HL7, ISO, CIHI, CSA,
- *Infoway* investments projects
- Standards experts



Process

- Proven standards life cycle
- Validated criteria for selection and approval of standards
- Public review and consensus period
- International Standards Development Organization processes
- Product release management processes based on ISO 2000
- *Infoway* PMO processes



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