**1.3 CDA Conformance**

**NOTE:**See [HL7 V3 Refinement and Localization](file:///C:\hl7\CDA_R2_NormativeWebEdition2005\infrastructure\conformance\conformance.htm) for a complete discussion of V3 conformance.

A conformant CDA document is one that at a minimum validates against the CDA Schema after all extensions have been removed, and that restricts its use of coded vocabulary to values allowable within the specified vocabulary domains. However a computer cannot validate every aspect of conformance. The focus of this section is to highlight these aspects of CDA that cannot be machine validated - particularly those aspects related to the CDA human readability requirements.

Because CDA is an exchange standard and may not represent the original form of a document, there are no persistent storage requirements for CDA documents defined in this standard. However, as noted above (see [Relationship of the CDA to HL7 Messaging Standards (§ 1.2.6 )](file:///C:\hl7\CDA_R2_NormativeWebEdition2005\infrastructure\cda\cda.htm#Relationship_of_the_CDA_to_HL7_Messaging_Standards)), document management is critically interdependent with the CDA specification. The custodian identified in the CDA header (see [custodian (§ 4.2.2.3 )](file:///C:\hl7\CDA_R2_NormativeWebEdition2005\infrastructure\cda\cda.htm#custodian)) is the participant charged with maintaining the original document, which may be in some form other than CDA.

**1.3.1 Document Recipient Role and Responsibilities**

* **Assume default values where they are defined in this specification and the instance does not contain a value**   
  The CDA Schema defines default values for many of the XML attributes that can appear in a CDA instance. Receivers must behave as if these values had been supplied in an instance when no value is provided. This can be readily accomplished by processing the instance using a Validating XML Parser and the supplied CDA Schema. Other methods of applying this rule are also permitted.   
    
  (**NOTE:** Default values are indicated in the body of this document by flagging them as "[**default**]".)
* **Parse and interpret the complete CDA header** : A recipient of a CDA document must be able to parse and interpret the complete CDA header. Because applications may choose to display demographic and other CDA header data drawn from a central master directory, the rendering of the CDA document header is at the discretion of the recipient. In addition, rendering of the CDA document header can be dependent on local business practice and context of use (e.g. electronic health record, de-identified scenario). Where a document originator wants to suggest a rendering, they can include one or more XML style sheets with an exchanged CDA document. Use of these style sheets is at the discretion of the recipient.
* **Parse and interpret the CDA body sufficiently to be able to render it** : A recipient of a CDA document must be able to parse and interpret the body of a CDA document sufficiently to be able to render it, using the following rendering rules:
  + If the CDA Document has a title, it must be rendered.
  + If the CDA Body is non-XML, it will need to be rendered with a software tool that recognizes its particular MIME media type.
  + If the CDA Body is structured, the label of a section, as conveyed in the Section.title component, must be rendered. The absence of the Section.title component signifies an unlabeled section.
  + If the CDA Body is structured, the contents of the Section.text field must rendered per the rules defined in [Section Narrative Block (§ 4.3.5 )](file:///C:\hl7\CDA_R2_NormativeWebEdition2005\infrastructure\cda\cda.htm#CDA_Section_Narrative_Block).
* A recipient of a CDA document is not required to parse and interpret the complete set of CDA entries contained within the CDA body. Within a local implementation, trading partners may ascribe additional recipient responsibilities to parse and interpret various entries.

A recipient of a CDA document is not required to validate a CDA document against referenced templates. Within a local implementation, trading partners may ascribe additional recipient responsibilities for template validation.

A recipient may reject an instance that does not contain a particular templateId (e.g., a recipient looking to receive only Procedure Note documents can reject an instance without the appropriate templateId).

A recipient may process objects in an instance document that do not contain a templateId (e.g., a recipient can process entries that contain Observation acts within a Problems section, even if the entries do not have templateIds).

**1.3.2 Document Originator Role and Responsibilities**

* **Properly construct CDA Narrative Blocks** : An originator of a CDA document must ensure that the attested portion of the document body is structured such that a recipient will correctly render the document adhering the responsibilities defined in 1.3.1 above. This includes:
  + If the CDA Body is structured, the label of a section must be conveyed in the Section.title component. The absence of the Section.title component signifies an unlabeled section.
  + If the CDA Body is structured, the attested narrative contents of a section must be placed in the Section.text field, regardless of whether information is also conveyed in CDA entries. Attested multimedia referenced in the narrative must be added as ObservationMedia and/or RegionOfInterest CDA entries.
  + If the CDA Body is structured, the contents of the Section.text field must be created per the rules defined in [Section Narrative Block (§ 4.3.5 )](file:///C:\hl7\CDA_R2_NormativeWebEdition2005\infrastructure\cda\cda.htm#CDA_Section_Narrative_Block)

An originator of a CDA document is not required to fully encode all narrative into CDA entries within the CDA body. Within a local implementation, trading partners may ascribe additional originator responsibilities to create various entries.

An originator can apply a templateId if there is a desire to assert conformance with a particular template.

In the most general forms of CDA exchange, an originator need not apply a templateId for every template that an object in an instance document conforms to. The implementation guide (IG) shall assert whenever templateIds are required for conformance.