**Review of conformance for recordTarget/guardian**

The record target MAY include [0..\*] a guardian(s). When that role is present, it SHOULD include a code element. The guardian/code element encodes the relationship between the person in the role of guardian and the patient.

**Does Guardian refer to legal guardian?**

HL7 Vocabulary simply describes guardian as a relationship to a ward.  This need not be a formal legal relationship.

**If legal guardian exists for the patient, should it be included or only if they are “present” for the generation of the PGD?**

The “guardian relationship” to/for the patient is present whether the person in the guardian role is present at the time the document is generated or not. When this relationship exists, it may be represented, regardless of who is present.

**Is the legal guardian another descriptor for the “*patient’s agent”*?**

The term “patient’s agent” refers to the person in the author role of a patient generated document when they are not the person in the role of recordTarget in the document. For a patient generated document, when the author of the document is not the record target, then the entity playing the role of author is said to be the patient’s agentin the context of the document. A legal guardian is a type of agent, but there are other kinds of agents for the patient, including: emergency contacts, next of kin, and legal agents such as the holder of a healthcare proxy.

**It is typically assumed the parent is the guardian, but it is not always the case. If a parent is the patient's agent, do they need to specify whether they are the legal guardian?**

This depends on organization policy, and is not specified by the implementation guide.

**Examples for the use of the recordTarget/guardian role:**

The “patient’s agent” for authoring the document may also be the patient’s guardian, but they do not need to be the patient’s guardian in order to author a document on the patient’s behalf. For example, there could be an elder parent who is cared for by two children even though only the elder child is the legal guardian. If the younger child fills out a pre-visit summary before taking the parent to a doctor’s visit, the child would be the author of the document, without being the patient’s legal guardian.

Definition ***patient’s agent***: “Patient’s agent” is not a CDA R2 participation or role class. In the context of a patient generated document (PGD), when the author of the PGD is not the same person as the recordTarget, the person who is authoring the document on behalf of the patient is called the “patient’s agent”.

Further, when a child is a minor, a parent is often the ward. If that were the case, then the minor’s parent would be represented in the guardian role and the guardian/code element would encode the personal relationship, for example, “Mother” for the child’s mom.