**HL7 Patient Care Work Group**

**Allergy/Intolerance/Adverse Reaction Topic Sub-Group Meeting Minutes**

**Date: March 9, 2016**

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Co-Chairs: Stephen Chu/Elaine Ayres Scribe: Elaine Ayres

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Present on March 9, 2016** |
| Elaine Ayres | X |
| Stephen Chu |  |
| Rob Hausam | X |
| Gay Dolin | X |
| Russ Leftwich | X |
| Emma Jones | X |
| Lisa Nelson |  |
| Michelle Miller | X |
| Donna Bohannon | X |
| Brett Marquard |  |
| Russell McDonnell | X |
| Julia Skapik | X |
| Dianna Dodd | X |
| Jay Lyle | X |
| Larry McKnight |  |
| Hank Mayers | X |
| Julia Skapik | X |
| Serafina Versaggi | X |
| M’Lynda Owens |  |

**Agenda for March 9, 2016**

1. USP Project Update
2. Term Info discussion of negation
3. Review PSS information for Allergy value sets for substances.
4. Discuss e-mail per FHIR allergy resource AllergyIntolerance.substance
5. Review of substances data - any updates? FHIM will do a project (Jay).
6. C-CDA 2.1 – Companion guide project
7. SPL for Food update

**Agenda for March 23, 2016**

1. Minutes from March 9, 2016
2. Allergy Substance Terms PSS
3. Next meeting – April 6, 2016

1. USP Update – Gay Dolin and Russ Leftwich presented HL7 content around drug allergies in C-CDA, V3 and FHIR. Discussed data from VA/DOD, Cerner and Kaiser and the wish to use these data. Cerner data is on the HL7 wiki. There is a reanalysis of the VA and DOD data. USP has starting to work with the spreadsheet for the expert panel. Needed to expedite the process. Would like to coordinate this process through the HL7 project. Goal is to develop a short list.

2. Review of the PSS

3. Term Info – negation discussion. No concrete decisions. Definitions do not align with the value set. May include multiple elements.

4. Substances, term info, negation project.

5. Data analysis under the umbrella of the project through HL7. Need VA/DOD and Cerner data participants. USP may provide resources.

On Mon, Feb 15, 2016 at 3:03 PM, Josh Mandel <[Joshua.Mandel@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Joshua.Mandel@childrens.harvard.edu)> wrote:

AllergyIntolerance.substance is [currently defined](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__hl7-2Dfhir.github.io_allergyintolerance-2Ddefinitions.html-23AllergyIntolerance.substance&d=BQMGaQ&c=qS4goWBT7poplM69zy_3xhKwEW14JZMSdioCoppxeFU&r=c7b1QeR755-dBx2b0xnlepDTylromoEzcLl-6ixmBL3TpXSxSvtAvT553fzSgLpm&m=oyp7OYAM8Fy-7JChMgbT45nw2KhVFBOARb8d9REOnR8&s=6QAcLd5QyRPQOVbT9xlI-0x_exGC2RltFsg_aJsPfLI&e=) as "Identification of a substance, or a class of substances, that is considered to be responsible for the adverse reaction risk."

That's a very reasonable and semantically un-surprising definition. But then the specification provides an [example binding to a valueset](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__hl7-2Dfhir.github.io_valueset-2Dallergyintolerance-2Dsubstance-2Dcode.html&d=BQMGaQ&c=qS4goWBT7poplM69zy_3xhKwEW14JZMSdioCoppxeFU&r=c7b1QeR755-dBx2b0xnlepDTylromoEzcLl-6ixmBL3TpXSxSvtAvT553fzSgLpm&m=oyp7OYAM8Fy-7JChMgbT45nw2KhVFBOARb8d9REOnR8&s=gPk_DKj0MxTJlZO2kIIKw01RPI2TFASH5vCI-y8nSHE&e=) with terms like:

**Code       Display**160244002  No Known Allergies  
429625007  No Known Food Allergies  
409137002  No Known Drug Allergies  
428607008  No Known Environmental Allergy

The problem is that "no known allergies" is not "a substance... responsible for the adverse reaction". It's not even a substance at all.

There are many ways to resolve this problem. One would be to add a new field, next to "substance", to convey this kind of detail. For example, we could have something likeAllergyIntolerance.substance and AllergyIntolerance.exclusionStatement; you would have to populate one and only one of these two fields. This would help clear up the semantics of "substance".

An alternative approach, *which I do not think is a good idea*, would be to try to finesse the definition of AllergyIntolerance.substance such that it could accommodate substances as well as exclusion statements. I think this is a bad idea because I can can't imagine a clearly-defined category that's broad enough to include substances like "sulfonamide drugs" and also exclusions like "no known drug allergies" (other than an over-broad category like "the class of all things").

Apologies if this has been discussed in depth already (and don't hesitate to point me to the discussion); but this strikes me as a particularly thorny semantic issue that will make it hard to treat FHIR data in a consistent way (e.g. it would throw a serious wrench in any attempts to perform automated reasoning over FHIR data).

  -Josh

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