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| **Coding Strength->**  **Conformance Expectation**  **|**  **V** | **CNE** | **CWE** |
| **SHALL** | If the element is non-null, the code MUST come from the specified value set to be considered conformant | If the element is non-null and the concept being expressed **can** be expressed in the specified value set, a code from the value set must be sent. If the concept **cannot** be expressed in the specified value set, then a code from outside the value set (from the same code system or some other code system) can be used, or the concept can be expressed only as original text, to be considered conformant. |
| **SHOULD** | If the above rule is not followed, the implementation is still considered conformant, but is not considered to be following best practice. Best practice is to use the above rule. | If the above rule is not followed, the implementation is still considered conformant, but is not considered to be following best practice. Best practice is to use the above rule. |
| **MAY** | There is no expectation that the implementation will follow the first rule at all, and failure to do so has no implication on conformance or best practice. The specified value set is merely a viable option to choose from. | There is no expectation that the implementation will follow the first rule at all, and failure to do so has no implication on conformance or best practice. The specified value set is merely a viable option to choose from. |

Note that we have TWO concepts:

Coding Strength (possible values CNE and CWE)

Conformance Expectation (possible values MAY, SHOULD, SHALL)

A proposal to add Conformance Expectation to the next release of binding tags in the MIF has been made.