# Glossary

Introduction to the Glossary

The HL7 Glossary provides "core" definitions of words and terms used throughout HL7 standards and documents. These definitions are maintained by the Modeling and Methodology (MnM) and Publishing Technical Committees (TC) and are identified in the glossary as "Core Glossary".

It should be noted that while the Modeling and Methodology and Publishing Technical Committees maintain the glossary definitions, the definitions themselves originate from within the various technical committees and special interest groups and are not constrained or vetted in any way by the MnM or Publishing TCs. It is expected that each committee and its balloters know their business best and that, should an imprecise or incorrect definition be put forward, it will be corrected through the domain balloting process.

It should further be noted that this glossary does not include all the definitions from the Reference Information Model (RIM) as the RIM definitions are already available in the RIM publication and are in context there.

Readers may also note that "core" definitions may be constrained or narrowed within the context of specific domains. For instance, the PM domain includes a definition for Person that is constrained from the RIM definition of Person. In these cases, the PM:Person is perfectly consistent with the RIM:Person, albeit as a specialized subset of the larger group. So while all instances of a PM:Person will also be members of RIM:Persons, not all instances of RIM:Person will fall within the group of PM:Persons.

The MnM and Publishing TCs encourage all members to review the definitions put forward by committees as part of the balloting process with an eye towards correcting and refining them as necessary and appropriate.

Alphabetic Index

| Term | Source | Definition |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A** |   |   |
| annotation | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A note following a Domain Message Information Model (D-MIM) diagram that explains the D-MIM or the modeling behind the D-MIM. |
| ANSI | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | American National Standards Institute |
| application | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A software program or set of related programs that provide some useful healthcare capability or functionality. |
| application role | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An abstraction that expresses a portion of the messaging behavior of an information system. |
| artifact | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Any deliverable resulting from the discovery, analysis, and design activities leading to the creation of message specifications. |
| Assessment scale | TermInfo | A collection of observations that together yield a summary evaluation of a particular condition. Examples include the Braden Scale (used for assessing pressure ulcer risk), APGAR Score (used to assess the health of a newborn). |
| association | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A reference from one class to another class or to itself, or a connection between two objects (instances of classes). For more information refer to the Relationships section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| association composition | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See composite aggregation |
| association role name | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A name for each end of an association. The name is a short verb phrase depicting the role of the class at the opposite end of the association from the perspective of the class adjacent to the role. |
| attribute | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An abstraction of a particular aspect of a class. Attributes become the data values that are passed in HL7 messages. |
| Attribute (HL7) | TermInfo | An abstraction of a particular aspect of a class. Attributes become the data values that are passed in HL7 messages. |
| Attribute (SCT) | TermInfo | Attributes express characteristics of SNOMED CT concepts. Example: Concept Arthritis IS-AArthropathyIS-A Inflammatory disorderFINDING-SITE Joint structureASSOCIATED-MORPHOLOGY InflammationIn this example, Arthritis has two attributes: FINDING-SITE and ASSOCIATED-MORPHOLOGY. The value of the attribute FINDING-SITE is Joint structure. SNOMED CTconcepts form relationships to each other through attributes. |
| attribute type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A classifier for the meaning of an attribute. In HL7 Version 3, attribute type is indicated by a suffix added to the attribute name. |
| Attribute (XML) | TermInfo | Attributes are used to associate name-value pairs with elements. |
| **B** |   |   |
| bag | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A form of collection whose members are unordered, and need not be unique. |
| Binding realm | Core Principles and Properties of V3 Models | A Binding Realm refers to a named interoperability conformance space, meaning that all information models within a particular Binding Realm share the same conformance bindings. In non-technical terms, it can be considered a dialect where speakers use the semantics of the language but agree to use certain terms that are specific to their community; it is a context of use for terminology in HL7 models. Binding Realms may be defined by jurisdictional boundaries and are often HL7 Affiliates, or sub-national jurisdictional entities within the Affiliate purview. Binding Realms may also be based on other factors such as type of patient (e.g. human vs. veterinary, pediatric vs. geriatric), type of medicine (e.g. dentistry vs. psychiatry), etc.. |
| blank | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | One of the allowed values for conformance requirements. Blank means that conformance for this element is to be negotiated on a site-specific basis. |
| **C** |   |   |
| Canonical form | TermInfo | The standard or basic structure of a post coordinated expression, a set of linked concepts |
| CAP | TermInfo | The College of American Pathologists. A not-for-profit medical society serving nearly 16,000 physician members and the laboratory community throughout the world. The College of American Pathologists, In collaboration with the United Kingdom’s National Health Service, developed SNOMED Clinical Terms. |
| cardinality | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Property of a data element (the number of times a data element MAY repeat within an individual occurrence of an object view) or column in the Hierarchical Message Description (the minimum and maximum number of occurrences of the message element). |
| Character Data | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Text in a particular coding (e.g., ASCII), as distinguished from binary data. |
| choice | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A message construct that includes alternative portions of the message. For a choice due to specialization, the sender picks one of the alternatives and sends it along with a flag. |
| choice due to specialization | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A choice that arises when a Hierarchical Message Description includes (a) an object view which is associated with a class that is a superclass of two or more object views, or (b) an object view which is a superclass of one or more object views and MAY itself be instantiated. Under this circumstance different message instances MAY contain different object views. The choice structure is used to accommodate the alternatives. |
| class | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An abstraction of a thing or concept in a particular application domain. For more information refer to the Classes section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| classifier attribute | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An attribute used in generalization hierarchies to indicate which of the specializations is the focus of the class.For more information refer to the Attributes section of the Version 3 Guide.  |
| Clinical Statement Pattern HL7 | TermInfo | Definition Missing |
| clinical statement pattern | TermInfo | Definition Missing |
| clinical statement project HL7 | TermInfo | Definition Missing |
| Clinical finding (SCT) | TermInfo | Concepts that represent the result of a clinical observation, assessment or judgment. These concepts are used for documenting clinical disorders and symptoms and examination findings. Within the “clinical finding” hierarchy is the sub-hierarchy of “disease”. Concepts that are descendants of “disease” are always and necessarily abnormal. Note: As expected, this definition includes concepts that would be used to represent HL7 Observations. However, it is worth noting that the definition of a finding in SNOMED CT is that it combines the question (see Observable entity) with the answering value. |
| clone | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A class from the Reference Information Model (RIM) that has been used in a specialized context and whose name differs from the RIM class from which it was replicated. This makes it possible to represent specialized uses of more general classes to support the needs of messaging. |
| CMET | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See Common Message Element Type. |
| CMET Message Information Model | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A form of Refined Message Information Model (R-MIM) constructed to represent the totality of concepts embodied in the individual R-MIMs needed to support the definition of HL7's Common Message Element Types. |
| C-MIM | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See CMET Message Information Model. |
| coded attribute | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An attribute in the Reference Information Model (RIM) with a base data type of CD, CE, CS, or CV. |
| coding strength | Core Principles and Properties of V3 Models | When referencing a Value Set in a Value Set Assertion, there needs to be an indication of Coding Strength. There are two possible values: CWE(Coded With Extensibility) and CNE (Coded with No Extensibility). |
| coding system | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A scheme for representing concepts using (usually) short concept identifiers to denote the concepts that are members of the system; defines a set of unique concept codes. Examples of coding systems are ICD-9, LOINC and SNOMED. |
| collection | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An aggregation of similar objects. The forms of collection used by HL7 are set, bag, and list. Objects which MAY be found in collections include data types and message element types. |
| common message element type (CMET) | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A message type in a Hierarchical Message Description (HMD) that MAY be included by reference in other HMD's. For more information refer to the Common Message Element Types section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| composite aggregation | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A type of association between objects, indicating a whole-part relationship. |
| composite data type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A data type assigned to a message element type that contains one or more components, each of which is represented by an assigned data type. |
| composite message element type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A message element type that contains subordinate heterogeneous message types. |
| concept identifier | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A unique identification assigned to a concept by the HL7 organization. |
| Concept (SCT) | TermInfo | A clinical concept to which a unique ConceptId has been assigned. |
| concept domain | Core Principles and Properties of V3 Models | An HL7 Concept Domain is a named category of like concepts (a semantic type) that is specified in the Vocabulary Declaration of an attribute in a information model or property in a data type, whose data types are coded or potentially coded, and may be used in a Context Binding. Concept Domains exist to constrain the intent of the coded element while deferring the binding of the element to a specific set of codes until later in the specification development process. Thus, Concept Domains are independent of any specific vocabulary or Code System. Concept Domains are hierarchical in nature, and each hierarchy represents a constraint path from a broader to a narrower semantic category. In HL7's base models – the RIM and the Abstract Data Types specification – all coded elements are tied to these abstract definitions of the allowed types of concepts. |
| Concepts | TermInfo | A member of a terminology; a defined or limited vocabulary of terms or concepts, for example: ICD, SNOMED, LOINC. |
| conformance claim | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A specification written by HL7 to precisely define the behavior of an application with respect to its HL7 interfaces, and which MAY be designated functional or technical. A functional conformance claim is simply a statement that an application conforms to a particular application role. A technical conformance claim (also referred to as a Technical Statements of Performance Criteria) defines the behavior of an application in some other sense than the messages it sends or receives. This MAY include the Implementation Technology Specifications that it supports, the use of specific optional protocols or character sets, or many other behaviors. |
| conformance claim set | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A list of the identifiers of specific HL7 conformance claims, used by a sponsor to describe the conformance of its application. |
| conformance requirement | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A column in the Hierarchical Message Description (HMD) that designates whether the system SHALL communicate an attribute's value if a value is available. Allowed values are required (must be included), not required (may be left out) or not permitted (may never be included.) Items listed as not required in the HL7 specification SHALL be declared by a vendor as either required or not permitted when a conformance claim is asserted for that message type. |
| conformance verb | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In HL7 Version 3 Specifications, the correct verb form for indicating a requirement is "SHALL." The correct verb form for indicating a recommendation is "SHOULD." The correct verb form for an option is "MAY." Universally accepted standardization terminology does not recognize "must". Use "SHALL" to indicate a mandatory aspect or an aspect on which there is no option. The negatives are SHALL NOT, SHOULD NOT, MAY NOT. The Publishing Facilitator's Guide requires the Conformance Verbs to be capitalized when they are used to indicate conformance criteria, to differentiate from common usage of the words. The source for this usage is ANSI. |
| connection | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In an information model, a specified relationship between two classes . |
| constraint | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Narrowing down of the possible values for an attribute; a suggestion of legal values for an attribute (by indicating the data type that applies, by restriction of the data type, or by definition of the domain of an attribute as a subset of the domain of its data type). MAY also include providing restrictions on data types. A constraint imposed on an association MAY limit the cardinality of the association or alter the navigability of the association (direction in which the association can be navigated). A Refined Message Information Model (R-MIM) class MAY be constrained by choosing a subset of its Reference Information Model (RIM) properties (i.e., classes and attributes) or by cloning, in which the class’ name is changed. For more information refer to the Constraints section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| Context model | TermInfo | Concepts can be placed in defined or refined in specific contexts related to subject (e.g. subject of record, family member, disease contact, etc.), time, finding (e.g. unknown, present, absent, goal, expectation, risk, etc.) or procedure (e.g. not done, not to be done, planned, requested, etc) |
| control event wrapper | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A wrapper that contains domain specific administrative information related to the "controlled event" which is being communicated as a messaging interaction. The control event wrapper is used only in messages that convey status, or in commands for logical operations being coordinated between applications (e.g., the coordination of query specification/query response interactions). |
| coupling | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | 1. An interaction between systems or between properties of a system. 2. With regard to application roles , refers to whether or not additional information about the subject classes participating in a message may be commonly available to system components outside of the specific message.  |
| **D** |   |   |
| data type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The structural format of the data carried in an attribute. It MAY constrain the set of values an attribute may assume. For more information refer to the Data Types section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| default value | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In HL7 messages, the value for an attribute that is to be used by message receivers if no value is given. |
| Diagnosis | TermInfo | Result of a cognitive process whereby signs, symptoms, test results, and other relevant data are evaluated to determine the condition afflicting a patient, directs administrative and clinical workflow, where for instance the assertion of an admission diagnosis establishes care paths, order sets, etc., something that is billed for in a clinical encounter. In such a scenario, an application typically has a defined context where the billable object gets entered. |
| distal class | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | From the perspective of a class in an information model, it is the class at the opposite end of an association between the two. |
| D-MIM | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See Domain Message Information Model. |
| domain | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | 1. A particular area of interest. For example, the domain for HL7 is healthcare. 2. The set of possible values of a data type, attribute, or data type component. See also concept domain. 3. A special interest group within HL7, such as Pharmacy, Laboratory, or Patient Administration. |
| domain expert | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An individual who is knowledgeable about the concepts in a particular problem area within the healthcare arena and/or is experienced with using or providing the functionality of that area. |
| Domain Message Information Model | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A form of Refined Message Information Model (R-MIM) constructed to represent the totality of concepts embodied in the individual R-MIMs needed to support the communication requirements of a particular HL7 domain. For more information refer to the Information Model section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| **E** |   |   |
| entry point | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The point at which a Common Message Element Type (CMET) is inserted into a Refined Message Information Model (R-MIM). |
| event | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | 1. A stimulus that causes a noteworthy change in the state of an object, or a signal that invokes the behavior of an object. See also trigger event. 2. A concept in the ActMood code system (universally bound for use with the Act.moodCode attribute) representing “An act that actually happens (may be an ongoing act or a documentation of a past act).” |
| Expression (SCT) | TermInfo | A collection of references to one or more concepts used to express an instance of a clinical idea. An expression containing a single concept identifier is referred to as a pre-coordinated expression. An expression that contains two or more concept identifiers is a post-coordinated expression. The concept identifiers within a post-coordinated expression are related to one another in accordance rules expressed in the SNOMED CT Concept Model. These rules allow concepts to be: • combined to represent clinical ideas which are subtypes of all the referenced concepts • E.g. “tuberculosis” + “lung infection” • applied as refinements to specified attributes of a more general concept. • E.g. “asthma” : “severity” = “severe”Notes: The SNOMED CT compositional grammar provides one way to represent an expression. The HL7 messaging standard supports communication of SNOMED CT expressions using the “concept descriptor” (CD) data type. |
| Extensible Markup Language | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A meta-language that defines a syntax used to define other domain -specific, semantic, structured markup languages. Based on SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), it consists of a set of rules for defining semantic tags used to mark up the content of documents. Abbreviated as XML. |
| **F**  |   |   |
| function point | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Any function, user transaction, or other interaction or event in the sponsor’s application which, when it occurs, does or may correspond to an HL7 trigger event. Used to describe the conformance of an information system with the HL7 standard. |
| **G** |   |   |
| generalization | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An association between two classes, referred to as superclass and subclass, in which the subclass is derived from the superclass. The subclass inherits all properties from the superclass, including attributes, relationships, and states, but also adds new ones to extend the capabilities of the parent class. Essentially, a specialization from the point-of-view of the subclass. For more information refer to the Relationships section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| generalization hierarchy | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | All superclasses and subclasses with a common root superclass. |
| graphical expression | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A visual representation of a model that uses graphic symbols to represent the components of the model and the relationships that exist between those components. |
| grid view | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A complete view of the message type definition, which, due to its size, is presented in a scrollable format. |
| **H** |   |   |
| Hierarchical Message Description | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A specification of the exact fields of a message and their grouping, sequence, optionality, and cardinality. This specification contains message types for one or more interactions, or that represent one or more common message element types. This is the primary normative structure for HL7 messages. |
| HL7 | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Health Level 7 |
| HMD | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See Hierarchical Message Description. |
| HTML | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Hypertext Markup Language, a specification of the W3C that provides markup of documents for display in a web browser |
| **I** |   |   |
| ICD(9 or 10) | TermInfo | International Classification of Diseases(version 9 or 10) is a terminology published by the National Center for Health Statistics which is a branch of the CDC. |
| identifier attribute | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An attribute used to identify an instance of a class. For more information refer to the Attributes section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| IHTSDO | TermInfo | The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation. An international organisation established as an association under Danish Law. It has responsibility for the ongoing maintenance, development, quality assurance, and distribution of SNOMED CT |
| implementation technology | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A technology selected for use in encoding and sending HL7 messages. For example, XML is being used as an implementation technology for Version 3. |
| Implementation Technology Specification | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A specification that describes how HL7 messages are sent using a specific implementation technology . It includes, but is not limited to, specifications of the method of encoding the messages, rules for the establishment of connections and transmission timing and procedures for dealing with errors. For more information refer to the Implementation Technology Specifications section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| inclusion | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The specification in the Hierarchical Message Description indicating whether an element of a message type MAY be null in some message instances. Contrast this with conformance. |
| information model | TermInfo | A class model in object oriented programming |
| information model | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A structured specification, expressed graphically and/or narratively, of the information requirements of a domain. An information model describes the classes of information required and the properties of those classes, including attributes, relationships, and states. Examples in HL7 are the Domain Reference Information Model,Reference Information Model, and Refined Message Information Model. For more information refer to the Information Model section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| inheritance | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In a generalization relationship, the subclass inherits all properties from the superclass, including attributes, relationships, and states, unless otherwise specified. |
| instance | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A case or an occurrence. For example, an instance of a class is an object. |
| interaction | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A single, one-way information flow that supports a communication requirement expressed in a scenario. |
| interaction diagram | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A graphical representation of communications between application roles. An interaction diagram may also be referred to as a ladder diagram, sequence diagram, or storyboard interaction diagram. |
| interaction list | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A list of the interactions that appear in an interaction diagram. |
| interaction model | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A specification of the responsibilities of message senders and receivers. |
| interaction narrative | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A narrative description of each interaction contained in an interaction list . |
| internal data type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An HL7 data type defined to support the definition of other data types, but which may not be assigned as the type for a data field itself. |
| interoperability | TermInfo | In this context, interoperability refers to the ability of two or more computer systems to exchange information. • Main Entry: in·ter·op·er·a·bil·i·ty o Function: nouno Date: 1977o ability of a system (as a weapons system) to use the parts or equipment of another systemo Source: Merriam-Webster web site• interoperability o ability of two or more systems or components to exchange information and to use the information that has been exchanged.o Source: IEEE Standard Computer Dictionary: A Compilation of IEEE Standard Computer Glossaries, IEEE, 1990“Functional” interoperability is the capability to reliably exchange information without error “Semantic" interoperability is the ability to interpret, and, therefore, to make effective use of the information so exchanged. In our context, "effective use" means that the information can be used in any type of computable algorithm (appropriate) to that information |
| ITS | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See Implementation Technology Specification. |
| **J**  |   |   |
| joint state | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A summarization of multiple partial states in a state machine. |
| **K** |   |   |
| no words starting with K in this list |  |  |
| **L** |   |   |
| ladder diagram | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See interaction diagram. |
| life cycle | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See state machine. |
| LIFO | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Last in-first out. See push-down stack. |
| list | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A form of collection whose members are ordered, and need not be unique. |
| literary expression | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A representation of a model in text. The literary expression seeks to balance the need for a rigorous, unambiguous description of the model with the need for a rendition that can be easily read and interpreted by individuals who understand the general concepts underlying object-oriented models, but who may not be schooled in formal model definition languages. |
| LOINC | TermInfo | Logical Observations, Identifiers, Names, and Codes. Defined in Using SNOMED CT in HL7 Version 3; Implementation Guide, Release 1.5: Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes is terminology with a focus on clinical and laboratory observtions maintained by The Regenstrief Institute (www.regenstrief.org) |
| loosely coupled | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Loosely coupled application roles do not assume that common information about the subject classes participating in a message is available to system components outside of the specific message. |
| **M** |   |   |
| mandatory | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | If an attribute is designated as mandatory, all message elements which make use of this attribute SHALL contain a non-null value or they SHALL have a default that is not null. This requirement is indicated in the "mandatory" column in the Hierarchical Message Description. |
| mandatory association | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An association with a multiplicity minimum greater than zero on one end. A fully mandatory association is one with a multiplicity minimum greater than zero on both ends. |
| markup | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Computer-processable annotations within a document. Markup encodes a description of a document’s storage layout and logical structure. In the context of HL7 Version 3, markup syntax is according to the XML Recommendation. |
| Master Files | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Common lookup tables used by one or more application systems. |
| MAY | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The conformance verb MAY is used to indicate a possibility. See the conformance verb definition for more information. |
| MDF | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See Message Development Framework. |
| message | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A package of information communicated from one application to another. See also message type and message instance. |
| Message Development Framework | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The collection of models, methods, and tools that comprise the methodology for specifying HL7 Version 3 messages. This framework is used by the developers of the HL7 standards. |
| message element | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A unit of structure within a message type. |
| message element type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A portion of a message type that describes one of the elements of the message. |
| message instance | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A message, populated with data values, and formatted for a specific transmission based on a particular message type. |
| message payload | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Data carried in a message. |
| message type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A set of rules for constructing a message given a specific set of instance data. As such, it also serves as a guide for parsing a message to recover the instance data. |
| meta-model | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A model used to specify other models. For example, the meta-model for a relational database system might specify elements of type ‘Table’, ‘Record’, and ‘Field.’. |
| MIME | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME, RFC 2046) |
| model | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A representation of a domain that uses abstraction to express the relevant concepts. In HL7, the model consists of a collection of schema and other documentation. |
| model of meaning | TermInfo | The universal sematic representation of an expression, distinguised from the “model of use” which may have local interpretations or context, for example an application my place some clincial statements in a “Negative” column meaning “ruled out”. Those statements would have to be modified (transformed into a cannonical form) to be correctly understood when transmitted to a third party. |
| Model of use | TermInfo | The “model of use” may have local interpretations or context, for example an application my place some clincial statements in a “Negative” column meaning “ruled out”. Those statements would have to be transformed into a cannonical form to be correctly understood when transmitted to a third party. Distinguished from the “model of meaning” which stand on its own, which can be universally understood. |
| moodCode | TermInfo | The HL7 Act.moodCode is defined as “a code distinguishing whether an Act is conceived of as a factual statement or in some other manner as a command, possibility, goal, etc”. |
| multiplicity | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | 1. In the information model, multiplicity is a specification of the minimum and maximum number of objects from each class that can participate in an association. Multiplicity is specified for each end of the association. 2. In the Hierarchical Message Description (HMD), multiplicity depicts the minimum and maximum number of occurrences of a message element expression in a collection. |
| **N** |   |   |
| navigability | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Direction in which an association can be navigated (either one way or both ways). |
| negationInd | TermInfo | Act.negationInd is defined by HL7 as “An indicator specifying that the Act statement is a negation of the Act as described by the descriptive attributes”.  |
| NHS | TermInfo | United Kingdom’s National Health Service |
| normal form | TermInfo | see cannonical form: the standard or basic structure of a post coordinated expression (set of linked concepts) |
| not permitted | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | One of the allowed values in conformance requirements. Abbreviated as NP, it means that the message element is never sent for that message type. |
| null | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A value for a data element which indicates the absence of data. A number of “flavors” of null are possible and are enumerated in the domain NullFlavor. |
| **O** |   |   |
| object | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An instance of a class. A part of an information system containing a collection of related data (in the form of attributes) and procedures (methods) for operating on that data. For more information refer to the Classes section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| object identifier | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A scheme to provide globally unique identifiers. This object identifier (OID) scheme is an ISO standard (ISO 8824:1990), and has been adopted as a CSA standard (Z243.110). The HL7 OID Registry is available online. |
| object identity | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The feature that the existence of an object is independent of any values associated with the object. |
| object-based | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Any method, language, or system that supports object identity, classification, and encapsulation. An object-based system does not support specialization . Ada is an example of an object-based implementation language. |
| Observable entity (SCT) | TermInfo | Concepts in this hierarchy represent a question about something which may be observed or measure. An observable entity combined with a result, constitutes a finding. For instance, the concept Left ventricular end-diastolic pressure (observable entity) in effect represent the question “What is the value of the left ventricular end diastolic pressure?” When Left ventricular end-diastolic pressure (observable entity) is given a value it represents a finding. For example: Increased left ventricular end-diastolic pressure is a finding with the value Increased. Left ventricular end-diastolic pressure combined with a separately expressed value such as 95 mmHg also behaves as a finding. Note: This definition includes concepts that would be used to represent the code attribute of HL7 Observations. |
| Observation | TermInfo | An Act of recognizing and noting information about the subject, and whose immediate and primary outcome (post-condition) is new data about a subject. Observations often involve measurement or other elaborate methods of investigation, but may also be simply assertive statements. Discussion: Structurally, many observations are name-value-pairs, where the Observation.code (inherited from Act) is the name and the Observation.value is the value of the property. Such a construct is also known as a “variable” (a named feature that can assume a value); hence, the Observation class is always used to hold generic name-value-pairs or variables, even though the variable valuation may not be the result of an elaborate observation method. It may be a simple answer to a question or it may be an assertion or setting of a parameter. As with all Act statements, Observation statements describe what was done, and in the case of Observations, this includes a description of what was actually observed (“results” or “answers”); and those “results” or “answers” are part of the observation and not split off into other objects. Note: This definition refers to the action rather than the outcome of the observation but in the discussion continues to refer to the “results” or “answers” as being a part of the observation. The general idea of an HL7 Observation therefore includes three distinct types of concept from a SNOMED CT perspection “Observable entities” (things that can be measured), “Measurement procedures” (a type of procedure used to make a measurement or observation) and “Clinical finding” (expressing both the name of the observation and its value). |
| Observations |  | Definition Missing |
| obsolescent message type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A message type that has been marked for deletion in a future version of HL7. |
| obsolete message type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A message type, previously declared obsolescent, that has been removed or replaced in a particular version of HL7. |
| OID | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See object identifier. |
| optional | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See inclusion. |
| Organizer | TermInfo | an object class in the HL7 Clinical Statement Pattern, which can be an ActContainer, which is a navigational structure or heading used to group a set of acts sharing a common context, include such structures as folders, documents, document sections, and batteries. Values may be drawn from the SNOMED CT Care Record Elements hierarchy. |
| **P** |   |   |
| partial state | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Part of a state machine. A state machine MAY have multiple partial states effective at the same time; the multiple partial states can be summarized to one joint state of the state machine. |
| Patterns | TermInfo | a method or technique for solving a type of problem, an object model that is generally effective for a type of problem and can be easily adapted to your particular instance of the problem. |
| PMH | TermInfo | Past Medical History |
| post-coordination | TermInfo | Representation of the meaning of a class by a combination of different attributes. (could be single attribute within CD datatype / single class / multi class) Note: This definition is not stated in HL7 documents but is inferred from usage in relation to particular attributes like Procedure.methodCode and Procedure.targetSiteCode. Contrast this with the definition of post-coordination in SNOMED CT documentation which refers to a collection of concept identifiers which may be applied to a single HL7 attribute. |
| Postcoordination (HL7) | TermInfo | Representation of a clinical idea using a combination of two or more concept identifiers. A combination of concept identifiers used to represent a single clinical idea is referred to as a post-coordinated expression (see expression). Many clinical ideas can also be represented using a single SNOMED CT concept identifier (see pre-coordination). Some clinical ideas may be represented in several different ways. SNOMED CT technical specifications include guidance of logical transformations that reduce equivalent expressions to a common canonical form. Example: SNOMED CT includes the following concepts: Fracture of bone (conceptId= 125605004) Finding site (conceptId= 363698007) Bone structure of femur (conceptId= 181255000) SNOMED CT also includes a pre-coordinated concept for this procedure Fracture of femur (conceptId= 71620000) It is possible to represent “fracture of femur” in different ways: 71620000 (pre-coordinated expression) 125605004 : 363698007 = 181255000 (post-coordinated expression). Note: In an HL7 representation a SNOMED CT expression is represented in a single HL7 attribute using the HL7 CD (Concept Descriptor) data type. |
| Postcoordination (SCT) | TermInfo | Representation of a clinical idea using a combination of two or more concept identifiers. A combination of concept identifiers used to represent a single clinical idea is referred to as a post-coordinated expression (see expression). Many clinical ideas can also be represented using a single SNOMED CT concept identifier (see pre-coordination). Some clinical ideas may be represented in several different ways. SNOMED CT technical specifications include guidance of logical transformations that reduce equivalent expressions to a common canonical form. Example: SNOMED CT includes the following concepts: Fracture of bone (conceptId= 125605004) Finding site (conceptId= 363698007) Bone structure of femur (conceptId= 181255000) SNOMED CT also includes a pre-coordinated concept for this procedure Fracture of femur (conceptId= 71620000) It is possible to represent “fracture of femur” in different ways: 71620000 (pre-coordinated expression) 125605004 : 363698007 = 181255000 (post-coordinated expression). Note: In an HL7 representation a SNOMED CT expression is represented in a single HL7 attribute using the HL7 CD (Concept Descriptor) data type. |
| Pre-coordination | TermInfo | creation of a new Concept in a terminiology, often a post-coordinated expression that links or qualifies several concepts. |
| Precoordination (HL7) | TermInfo | Representation of the meaning of a class by a single attribute. (as in SCT but also could cover single attribute post-coordination) Note: This definition is not stated in HL7 documents but is inferred from usage in relation to particular attributes like Procedure.methodCode and Procedure.targetSiteCode. Contrast this with the definition of pre-coordination in SNOMED CT documentation which implies a single concept identifier is used to represent a meaning. |
| Precoordination (SCT) | TermInfo | Representation of a clinical idea using a single concept identifier. A single concept identifier used to represent a specific meaning is referred to as a pre-coordinated expression (see expression). SNOMED CT also allows the use of post-coordinated expressions (see post-coordination) to represent a meaning using a combination of two or more concept identifiers. However, including commonly used concepts in a pre-coordinated form makes the terminology easier to use. For examples see post-coordination. |
| predicate reference | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In the Hierarchical Message Description, a message element that is referred to in the predicate defining the conditional presence of another message element. |
| primitive data type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A data type that is defined as a single entity, and whose full semantic is contained in its definition. |
| primitive message element type | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A message element type that contains a single datum, with no subordinate components. Examples include String and Number. |
| Problem |  | a clinical statement that a clinician chooses to add to a problem list. |
| Procedure (HL7) | TermInfo | An Act whose immediate and primary outcome (post-condition) is the alteration of the physical condition of the subject. Discussion: Applied to clinical medicine, procedure is but one among several types of clinical activities such as observation, substance-administrations, and communicative interactions (e.g. teaching, advice, psychotherapy, represented simply as Acts without special attributes). Procedure does not subsume those other activities nor is procedure subsumed by them. Notably Procedure does not comprise all acts of whose intent is intervention or treatment. Whether the bodily alteration is appreciated or intended as beneficial to the subject is likewise irrelevant, what counts is that the act is essentially an alteration of the physical condition of the subject. Note: This definition and the associated discussion exclude many activities which are subsumed by the more general sense of the word “procedure” which is used in the SNOMED CT definition. |
| Procedure (SCT) | TermInfo | Concepts that represent the purposeful activities performed in the provision of health care. This hierarchy includes a broad variety of activities, including but not limited to invasive procedures (Excision of intracranial artery), administration of medicines (Pertussis vaccination), imaging procedures (Radiography of chest), education procedures (Instruction in use of inhaler), and administrative procedures (Medical records transfer). Note: As expected, this definition includes concepts that would be used to represent HL7 Procedures. However, it also includes measurement procedures and actions that involve administration of a substance. Therefore, the code attribute of many HL7 Observations and SubstanceAdministration Acts may also be expressed using concepts from the SNOMED procedures hierarchy. |
| property | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | 1. Any attribute, association, method, or state model defined for a class or object. Core Glossary: 2. In a Hierarchical Message Description HMD), the column that states the name of the class, attribute or association role name as it appears in the Reference Information Model (RIM). |
| push-down stack | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Also known as a “last in-first out” (LIFO) list, a list maintained by a Technical Committee as it analyses the Refined Message Information Model (R-MIM) and builds a Hierarchical Message Description, in which the last class added is always the first class removed. (A metaphoric reference to the spring-loaded plate carriers used in institutional dining halls, where the new plates added to the top of the stack push down the earlier plates, so the newest plate is taken off the stack first). |
| Q  |   |   |
| query | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Queries are the primary mechanism for retrieving information from computer systems. Many database management systems use the Structured Query Language (SQL) standard query format. |
| **R**  |   |   |
| Realm |  | See “Binding realm” |
| receiver responsibility | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An obligation on an application role that receives an interactionas defined in the interaction model. |
| recursion | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An association that leads from a class directly or indirectly back to that class. |
| Refined Message Information Model | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An information structure that represents the requirements for a set of messages. A constrained subset of the Reference Information Model (RIM) which MAY contain additional classes that are cloned from RIM classes. Contains those classes, attributes, associations, and data types that are needed to support one or more Hierarchical Message Descriptions (HMD). A single message can be shown as a particular pathway through the classes within an R-MIM. For more information refer to the Information Model section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| required | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | One of the allowed values in conformance requirements. Abbreviated as R, it means that the message elements SHALL appear every time that particular message type is used for an interaction. If the data is available, the element SHALL carry the data, otherwise a blank MAY be sent. |
| responsibility | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An action required of the receiver of a message. |
| RIM | TermInfo | See Reference Information Model. Defined in Using SNOMED CT in HL7 Version 3; Implementation Guide, Release 1.5: |
| R-MIM | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See Refined Message Information Model. |
| R-MIM diagram | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A diagrammatic representation of a Refined Message Information Model (R-MIM). Possible formats include UML and the HL7 R-MIM graphic format. |
| role | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | 1. A function or position. 2. A Reference Information Modelclass that defines the competency of an Entity class. Each role is played by one Entity (the Entity that is in the role) and is usually scoped by another. 3. In UML, each end of an association is designated as a role to reflect the function that class plays in the association. |
| role name | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See association role name. |
| root class | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The class on which a message is based. Usually the root class for a family of messages is either the subject class or the class that will be first represented in the set of messages to be built. |
| **S**  |   |   |
| scenario | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A statement of relevant events from the problem domain, defined as a sequence of interactions. The scenario provides one set of interactions that the modeling committee expects will typically occur in the domain. Usually, a sequence diagram is constructed to show a group of interactions for a single scenario. Each scenario is displayed as a subset of the interaction model. |
| schema | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | 1. A diagrammatic presentation, a structured framework, or a plan. 2. A set of requirements that need to be met in order for a document or set of data to be a valid expression within the context of a particular grammar. For example, XML Schema is a specification in SGML of the structure of a document or set of data. |
| schema view | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A link to the schema used to validate XML messages that conform to a particular message type. |
| scope | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | 1. A definition of the range or extent of a project undertaken by a Technical Committee. 2. A means of constraining a role (i.e. a role is “scoped by” an entity). |
| SCT | TermInfo | SNOMED CT Systematic Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Term |
| section | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In the HL7 Version 3 Guide, a method of grouping related information into domains. These domains include Infrastructure Management, Administrative Management, and Health & Clinical Management. |
| Semantic | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In the context of a technical specification, semantic refers to the meaning of something as distinct from its exchange representation. Syntax can change without affecting semantics. |
| semantic interoperability | TermInfo | a receiving application should be able to retrieve and process communicated information, in the same way that it is able to retrieve and process information that originated within that application. |
| sequence diagram | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See interaction diagram . |
| set | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A form of collection which contains an unordered list of unique elements of a single type. |
| SGML | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Standard Generalized Markup Language, ISO 8879:1986(E) as amended and corrected |
| SHALL | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The conformance verb SHALL is used to indicate a requirement. See the conformance verb definition for more information. |
| SHOULD | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The conformance verb SHOULD is used to indicate a recommendation. See the conformance verb definition for more information. |
| SiteCode | TermInfo | the Concept code for the location on the body of an observation or procedure |
| SNOMED | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Defined in Using SNOMED CT in HL7 Version 3; Implementation Guide, Release 1.5: Systematic Nomenclature of Medicine |
| specialization | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An association between two classes (designated superclass and subclass), in which the subclass is derived from the superclass. The subclass inherits all properties from the superclass, including attributes, relationships, and states, but also adds new ones to extend the capabilities of the superclass. |
| specification | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A detailed description of the required characteristics of a product. |
| sponsor (of an application) | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In the context of conformance claims , the vendor, in-house developer, or provider of public domain software for a healthcare information system. |
| state | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A named condition of a classinstance ( object) that can be tested by examination of the instance's attributes and associations. For more information refer to the Dynamic Behavior section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| state attribute | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An attribute describing the current state of an object. For more information refer to the Attributes section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| state diagram | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A graphical representation of a state transition model showing states as vertices (nodes) and state transitions as directed arcs (arrows) between the nodes. |
| state flag | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A discrete value of a single enumerated domain of partial states. State flags are included in a state attribute in a message instance that indicates the joint state of an object. |
| state machine | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A description of the life cycle for instances of a class, defined by a state transition model. |
| state transition | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A change in the state of an object, as a result of a change in its attributes or associations. For more information refer to the Dynamic Behavior section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| state transition model | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A graphical representation of the life cycle of a class. The model depicts all of the relevant states of a class, and the valid transitions from state to state. |
| steward committee | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The Technical Committee within HL7 which has primary responsibility for specifying properties for a class in the Reference Information Model (RIM). The steward committee must be consulted on any proposed changes to the properties of classes under its stewardship. |
| stewardship representative | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An individual member of the steward committee, authorized by the committee to speak on behalf of the committee, and to represent the interests of the steward committee. |
| storyboard | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A narrative of relevant events defined using interaction diagramsor use cases. The storyboard provides one set of interactions that the modeling committee expects will typically occur in the domain. |
| storyboard diagram | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See interaction diagram. |
| structural attribute | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An attribute whose coded values are needed to fully interpret the class with which it is associated. |
| stylesheet | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A file that describes how to display an XML document of a given type |
| subclass | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A class that is the specialization of another class (superclass). |
| subject area | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A convenient aggregation of modelclasses used to partition large models into manageable subsets. |
| subject class | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A class that a Technical Committee designates as the central focus of a collection of messages. |
| sub-section | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In the HL7 Version 3 Guide, a section within a major section. |
| sub-state | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An identifiable state of a class that has a more specific definition than, and is entirely encompassed within the scope of, its super-state. |
| superclass | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A class that is the generalization of one or more other classes (subclasses). |
| super-state | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A state of a class that encompasses two or more independent sub-states. |
| surface form (of a concept) | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A code value or textual description that represents a concept identified by an HL7 concept identifier. There MAY be many different surface forms associated with a single concept identifier. |
| system | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | 1. An end user application. 2. In HL7, a group of messages that work together. |
| **T**  |   |   |
| table view | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An expression of the Hierarchical Message Description (HMD) common and message type definition condensed in size to fit on a printed page. |
| TermInfo | TermInfo | A project started by NASA and adopted by HL7 Vocabulary Committee to define how to use SNOMED in HL7 RIM record transfers. |
| Terminology (model) | TermInfo | a defined or limited vocabulary of terms or concepts, for example: ICD, SNOMED, LOINC. |
| Terms | TermInfo | a member of a terminology; a defined or limited vocabulary of terms or concepts, for example: ICD, SNOMED, LOINC. |
| tightly coupled | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Tightly coupled application roles assume that common information about the subject classes participating in a message is available to system components outside of the specific message. |
| transaction | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A complete set of messages for a particular trigger event, e.g., a message and a response. |
| transport wrapper | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A wrapper that contains information needed by a sending application or message handling service to route the message payload to the designated receiver. All HL7 Version 3 messages SHALL have an appropriately configured transport wrapper. |
| trigger event | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An event which, when recorded or recognized by an application, indicates the need for an information flow to one or more other applications, resulting in one or more interactions. |
| **U** |   |   |
| UML | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See Unified Modeling Language. |
| uncertaintyCode | TermInfo | The Act.uncertaintyCode is defined by HL7 as “A code indicating whether the Act statement as a whole, with its subordinate components has been asserted to be uncertain in any way.” |
| Unified Modeling Language | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A language for the creation of domainmodels. UML was created in order to unify several well-known object-oriented modeling methodologies, including those of Booch, Rumbaugh, Jacobson, and others. |
| union message | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A message type that contains the elements of several message structures drawn from the same Hierarchical Message Description. A union message includes all the message elements that SHALL be sent from one application role to all other application roles in response to a trigger event. |
| user | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | In the context of conformance claims, the organization that uses an application. This is frequently the buyer but in some cases the user and sponsor organizations may be parts of the same organization, or otherwise have a business relationship other then vendor-buyer. |
| **V** |   |   |
| Version 3 Guide | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A companion to the Version 3 Standard which contains the methodological information an HL7 member needs to understand the Version 3 standard. |
| Valid Document | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A document which meets all of the validity constraints in the XML Specification |
| value set | Core Principles and Properties of V3 Models | A Value Set represents a uniquely identifiable set of valid concept identifiers, where any concept identifier in a coded element can be tested to determine whether it is a member of the Value Set at a specific point in time. A concept identifier in a Value Set may be a single concept code or a post-coordinated expression of a combination of codes. |
| value set assertion | Core Principles and Properties of V3 Models | A Value Set Assertion is the mechanism to express the coded vocabulary constraint for a coded model element or data type property. It defines the Value Set Expansions for the vocabulary to be used in a particular coded element or data type property, including conformance conditions around the use of those Value Set Expansions, and whether the collections of codes are always the same, or are changeable. It also defines whether or not the Value Set Expansions may be locally extended. The Value Set Assertion is part of the conformance claim for a model. |
| vocabulary | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The set of valid values for a coded attribute or field. For more information refer to the Vocabulary section of the Version 3 Guide. |
| vocabulary declaration | Core Principles and Properties of V3 Models | The Vocabulary Declaration identifies the constraints on the coded expressions that can be used as well as the vocabulary conformance expectations for implementers of the data element. A Vocabulary Declaration is the semantic constraint for a coded model element or data type property. |
| **W** |   |   |
| W3C | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The World Wide Web Consortium, an international industry consortium |
| W3C Schema | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The three-part schema specification issued by the W3C• XML Schema Part 0: Primer , W3C Recommendation, 2-May-2001• XML Schema Part 1: Structures, W3C Recommendation, 2-May-2001• XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes, W3C Recommendation, 2-May-2001 |
| Well-formed document | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | A document which meets all of the well-formedness constraints in the XML Specification |
| wrapper | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | The control or envelope information in which the message payload resides. See transport wrapper and control event wrapper. |
| **X** |   |   |
| XHTML | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | XHTML 1.0. A Reformulation of HTML 4 in XML 1.0. W3C Recommendation 26-January-2000, revised 1 August 2002 |
| XML | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | See Extensible Markup Language. |
| XML Declaration | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | An XML document consists of a prolog, root document element, and other objects. A data object is an XML document if it is well-formed, as defined in the XML specification. |
| XSL | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | Extensible Style Language, a specification of the W3C An XSL stylesheet specifies the presentation of a class of XML documents by describing how an instance of the class is transformed into an XML document that uses the formatting vocabulary. |
| XSLT | HL7 V3 Core Glossary | XSL transformation language, a specification of the W3C A language for transforming XML documents into other XML documents. |
| **Y** |   |   |
| no words starting with Y in this list |  |  |
| **Z** |   |   |
| no words starting with Z in this list |  |  |