What can data interoperability and vocabulary standards do for you?

In a healthcare delivery setting, interoperability and data standardization can help:

- Improve the care of individual patients through the aggregation of data from disparate systems
- Analyze data in an enterprise-wide or population-based view to determine effective resource utilization
- Perform outcomes research and compare different treatment plan outcomes
- Facilitate clinical decision support and implement evidence-based medicine
- Merge diverse data from systems throughout the enterprise
- Measure the quality of patient care and analyze patient care processes
- Meet requirements for the use of specific standards (e.g., meaningful use)

Solution: Expertise and the powerful 3M™ Healthcare Data Dictionary

3M Terminology Consulting Services offers your organization a comprehensive program of terminology analysis, implementation, and data mapping services, delivered by seasoned medical informaticists with more than 20 years of experience in data dictionary development. 3M consultants have clinical expertise and real-world operational experience in terminologies, terminology problem identification, vocabulary standards, standards implementation, and vocabulary development.

This expertise is supported with advanced terminology tools that build on the robust vocabulary content and data “mapping” (cross-referencing) technology of the 3M Healthcare Data Dictionary (HDD). An operational database that integrates and supplements both standard and legacy vocabularies, the 3M HDD provides a master terminology (interlingua) used to translate data.
Unlike many terminology products marketed today, the 3M HDD does not merely map one vocabulary to another—it maps standard and legacy vocabularies to a single, global reference terminology that captures unique concepts and the relationships between concepts. For data exchange with external systems, the 3M HDD can translate encoded data back into any standard, requested vocabulary.

How the services work
3M consultants use an approach that includes:

- Initial assessment, objective setting, and education. 3M terminology consultants conduct interviews, investigate current systems, and evaluate the data from those systems.
- Historical data cleanup. 3M terminology consultants can provide mapping services to preserve legacy data and make it interoperable with standards, and also help you prepare for possible data migration. The 3M HDD may be used as a tool for this process.

The deliverables
Individual client needs vary, but basic deliverables include:

- Identifying, recommending, and supplying data sets for all the clinical domains within the client’s EHR.
- One-time data mappings that translate between and among your legacy data and standard terminologies. Data mappings are supplied in various electronic formats—spreadsheets, text delimited files, Microsoft® Access database tables, etc.—that can then be incorporated into the master files of your existing information system.
- Terminology maintenance to allow for ongoing synchronization of the mapped vocabularies.
- Training and education for your staff in the principles of medical informatics and vocabulary maintenance.

Client responsibilities
A successful engagement with 3M Terminology Consulting Services involves close collaboration with and access to the personnel who are most impacted by data standardization. Electronic versions of vocabulary content from your systems, technical documentation and data (e.g., list of laboratory test codes and descriptions), and process documentation (standard operating procedures) may also be required.

Call today
For more information on how 3M solutions can assist your organization, contact your 3M sales representative, call us toll-free at 800-367-2447, or visit us online at www.3Mhis.com.