



## 3M™ Terminology Consulting Services

- Helps your organization understand the impact of multiple, diverse terminologies on its clinical systems, data repository, and electronic health records (EHRs)
- Maps legacy terminologies to standards and provides services and strategies for keeping them synchronized
- Enables development of new terminologies and value sets in clinical areas with poor coverage

### Problem: Islands of data and systems that do not communicate

You have “data islands” if each information system in your organization is only capturing, storing, and displaying data in a standalone mode. Healthcare organizations today can benefit from “data interoperability,” generally defined as the ability of information systems, software applications, and networks to accurately exchange data with each other and then effectively use and process that data.

### What can data interoperability do for you?

True data interoperability goes beyond simple electronic message exchange by advancing data standardization and facilitating seamless communications between information systems. In a healthcare delivery setting, data interoperability can help:

- Improve the care of the individual patient who sees different physicians and caregivers within a multi-facility organization
- Analyze data in an enterprise-wide or population-based view to determine whether resources are being used most effectively
- 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
- Send data to external agencies in the required coded form and format

### 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’s consultants have 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 (3M 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 “super-vocabulary” 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.



## 3M™ Terminology Consulting Services

### How the services work

3M consultants use a phased approach that includes:

- **Initial assessment, objective setting, and education.** 3M consultants conduct interviews, investigate current systems, and produce a process map.
- **Data analysis.** The process map is evaluated and compared to the organization's future goals and current needs to target areas that require improvement.
- **Historical data cleanup.** 3M consultants can provide mapping services to preserve legacy data and make it interoperable with standards. The 3M™ Healthcare Data Dictionary (3M HDD) may be used as a tool for this process.
- **Processes/procedures to prevent recurring problems.** Achieving interoperable data requires a commitment to enhance all procedures and processes used to store data in an electronic health record (EHR). 3M consultants help analyze and identify the processes and procedures that need improvement.
- **Long-term recommendations.** If your organization has limited resources and cannot immediately implement all recommendations, 3M consultants can develop a migration path and identify areas that can provide the greatest benefit in the short-term while also avoiding redundant or superfluous effort.

### 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.
- Tools and services for terminology maintenance, to allow for ongoing synchronization of the mapped vocabularies.
- Tools to perform transaction-based translations of electronic messages between your hospital information systems.
- Training and education for your staff in the principles of medical informatics and vocabulary maintenance.



#### Health Information Systems

575 West Murray Boulevard  
Salt Lake City, UT 84123  
U.S.A.  
800 367 2447  
www.3Mhis.com

3M is a trademark of 3M Company.  
SNOMED CT is a registered trademark of the College of American Pathologists.  
Unified Medical Language System and UMLS are registered trademarks of the National Library of Medicine.

LOINC is a registered trademark of the Regenstrief Institute, Inc. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. Microsoft is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

Please recycle. Printed in U.S.A.  
© 3M 2008. All rights reserved.  
Published 01/08  
70-2009-8512-8

### Real-world implementation experience

The 3M HDD has been used to encode data for multiple commercial and government facilities and systems, including Department of Defense (DoD) facilities worldwide.

Almost four million legacy metadata items have been mapped for DoD facilities from these domain areas:

- Demographics/Encounters • Laboratory
- Microbiology • Pharmacy • Radiology/Text Reports

Before the 3M HDD mapping, the DoD facilities functioned as standalone systems, but now legacy patient data are interoperable across these DoD locations.

### Real-world experience with standards

3M consultants are experienced with:

- Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT®)
- Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC®)
- Unified Medical Language System® (UMLS®)
- Reimbursement-focused vocabularies, such as CPT® codes, DRGs, ICD-9-CM codes, etc.
- Pharmacy databases, such as National Drug Code (NDC)
- Health Level 7 (HL7)

### 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**.