The National Library of Medicine (NLM) is the central coordinating body for clinical terminology standards within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). NLM works closely with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to ensure NLM efforts are aligned with the goal of the President and HHS Secretary for the nationwide implementation of an interoperable health information technology infrastructure to improve the quality and efficiency of health care.

**Vocabulary Standards**

**RxNorm**

RxNorm provides normalized names for clinical drugs and links its names to many of the drug vocabularies commonly used in pharmacy management and drug interaction software, including those of First Databank, Micromedex, MediSpan, Gold Standard Drug Database, and Multum. By providing links between these vocabularies, RxNorm can mediate messages between systems not using the same software and vocabulary.


**SNOMED CT**

SNOMED CT is a clinical terminology and a required standard in interoperability specifications of the U.S. Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel. The terminology is owned and maintained by the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO), a not-for-profit association. NLM is the United States National Release Center for SNOMED CT.


**Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)**

The UMLS integrates and distributes key terminology, classification and coding standards, and associated resources to promote creation of more effective and interoperable biomedical information systems and services, including electronic health records.

https://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/

**LOINC**

The Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes terminology (LOINC) was developed and is maintained by the Regenstrief Institute, Inc., a non-profit medical research organization associated with Indiana University. The purpose of LOINC is to facilitate the exchange and pooling of clinical or laboratory results for clinical care, outcomes management, claims attachment, and research by providing a set of universal codes and names. LOINC codes allow users to merge clinical results from many sources into one database for patient care, clinical research, or management.

https://loinc.org/

**Health Information Technology and Health Data Standards at NLM**

**Terminology Tools**

**AccessGUDID**

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