

July 1, 2021

REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Background

Accurate patient matching has long been recognized as foundational to the interoperability of patient data across healthcare. One of the ways that patient matching could be improved is through demographic data standardization. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is collaborating with standards development organizations (SDOs) including the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP), Health Level 7 (HL7) International, and X12, along with other interested stakeholders to create a unified, cross-standards technical specification for patient address to help improve patient matching called Project US@.

Purpose

The purpose of this request is to enhance and complement ongoing specification development by requesting public comment on DRAFT version 1.0 of the Project US@ Technical Specification.

Objective

The objective of Project US@ is improved patient matching.

Time Period

Comments will be collected between July 1-31st, 2021.

Methods

Submitting comments on standards and technical specifications is an integral part of the development process. Please use the template when submitting comments to ensure effective participation in this process. All comments received between July 1 – 31, 2021 will be collated to aid ONC and the Project US@ Technical Workgroup in their review and reconciliation. It is not necessary to submit comments to each participating SDO.

DRAFT version 1.0 of the Project US@ Technical Specification was developed by the [Project US@ Technical Workgroup](#), building on USPS Publication 28¹ as a foundation. Although the guidance outlined in Publication 28 is intended to improve mailability of addresses, the technical workgroup focused on patient address data standardization for improved patient matching.

While drafting comments, please focus on Project US@ and not external technical or policy areas. Please be as specific as possible; limiting suggestions to the technical specification within the context of the standard the commenter considers capable of supporting or aligning with Project US@, if known.

Commenters may provide input on specific pages or sections of the technical specification, or they may submit other suggested improvements to the technical specification that may improve patient matching and record linkage efforts that include patient addresses.

Alternatively, or in addition, commenter(s) may suggest operational considerations for the Project US@ AHIMA Companion Guide. The Project US@ AHIMA Companion Guide includes operational guidance and best practices to support conformance to the technical specification and improve patient matching. The companion guide is under draft and will be released with the Final v1.0 Project US@ Technical Specification at the end of this year.

Please follow the comments guidance provided on the template and the specific workflow provided by your SDO. If submitting your comments via e-mail, please cc Identity.ONC@hhs.gov to support cross-organizational communication, collaboration, and transparency.

For more information on Project US@, see the project's Confluence [site](#), including contact information if you want to get involved, a list of Project US@ Partners, members of the Project US@ Technical Workgroup, artifacts from previous Project US@ meetings, and other resources.

Thank you for your participation in this important process.

¹ <https://pe.usps.com/text/pub28/welcome.htm>