



Content Committee Report to the General Assembly – April 2010

The Content Committee met in person in October 2009 in Bethesda, and since then has also met 6 times via conference calls. Highlights of work undertaken or overseen by the committee during the period October 2009-April 2010 include:

- **Retirement of Codes with Concept Status of Limited/Classification (category 6):** These codes were made inactive in the January 2010 release. Largely as a result of this decision, the total number of codes considered “active” decreased from 307,753 to 291,205 (a change of 16,548). The change is expected to significantly reduce confusion about which code to choose for common conditions, by removing the “NOS” and “NEC” codes from active status.
- **Documentation management:** The User Guide, Technical Reference Guide, and several other documents that are routinely distributed with the International Release have been converted to a markup standard called DITA (Darwin Information Typing Architecture) which allows automated reformatting into different distribution formats (HTML or PDF), single-sourcing to avoid inconsistencies of topics across different documents, and collaborative authoring using a shared repository.
- **Formal processes for development, approval and maintenance of terminological content:** In cooperation with the Quality Committee and the Officers, the Content Committee is working to help specify formal processes related to the development, approval and maintenance of terminological content. This will cover those content changes which are considered outside the scope of the Standard-for-Standards process for Technical Reports, Guidelines and Standards.
- **Work planning and project prioritization:** The committee has worked to catalog and assign priorities for the 2010 work plans for a long list of projects related to content enhancement, refinement and error correction. Over 161 projects (of varying size) have been examined, and an additional long and growing list of content issues (currently numbered at 229) have been identified and will require prioritization.
- **Addition of a meta-data hierarchy and coordination of RF1 and RF2:** A metadata hierarchy was added to the Release Format 2 (RF2) technology preview, and was also made available in RF1 format as a Member resource, but was omitted from the RF1 official release based on feedback from Members about the need for vendors and suppliers to adjust software if there are two top nodes in the release hierarchy. Additional consultation will occur prior to the July 2010 release.
- **Observables redesign:** A draft of the observables model has entered the Member consultation phase of the Standard-for-Standards process.
- **Pharmacy and substances redesign:** Activity has continued in these two projects, with a draft of the Pharmacy model making its way through stakeholder consultation, and a draft of the Substance model nearly ready, pending Content Committee review.



- **Pre-coordination roadmap project group:** The committee initiated the formation of this project group and approved its terms of reference. Initial face-to-face meeting of the group will occur in April 2010.
- **Quality metrics relating to User Guide:** The committee received and reviewed a report from CAP-STS on a set of exceptions to the Machine-Readable rules documented in the User Guide; the exceptions are for rules about attributes that should take very general values only for “grouped concepts.” Next steps will include white-listing of allowable exceptions to the rules.
- **Strategic Product Development Plan:** The committee is supporting the Chief Terminologist in drafting this plan which will be integrated with other aspects of the IHTSDO strategic planning for the next 3 to 5 years, to be brought to the GA in October 2010.
- **Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and project groups (PGs) reporting to the Content Committee** following the April 2010 meetings will include the Pharmacy SIG, Substance Redesign PG, Observables and Investigation Procedures PG, Event-Condition-Episode PG, Organisms and Infectious Disease PG, Anatomy Redesign PG, and GP/FP SIG. Immediately following the April 2010 meeting, three SIGs (Nursing, Anesthesia, and IPALM) will transition their reporting relationships to the I&I committee.