

# Developments in US ONC Standards

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John Quinn  
COV HITSAC  
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# On the Positive Side

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- On December 2, 2010 the HL7 Structured Documents Work Group approved a project called:

**HL7/IHE Health Story Implementation Guide Consolidation (or just “Health Story”)**

with the encouragement of ONC.

# Health Story

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## ■ Timeline Goals:

- Ballot for DSTU in May 2011
- Published DSTU in July 2011

## ■ The Project will:

- Take a series of existing CDA implementation guides for various types of clinical documents and consolidate them into a single publication as a DSTU.

# Health Story

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- **These publications include IGs for the following types of clinical notes:**
  - **Continuity of Care Document**
  - **History & Physical**
  - **Consult Note**
  - **Operative Note**
  - **Procedure Note**
  - **Diagnostic Imaging**
  - **Discharge Summary (CRS R2)**
  - **Progress Note**
  - **Unstructured Documents**
  
- **The Project will review and reconcile related IHE Templates. The Project will not address IHE CDA Templates that do not overlap with the HL7 Implementation Guides listed above, although that could be considered for future collaboration.**

# Health Story

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- The consolidation of the guides will resolve ballot comments made on individual publications over the past several years and will resolve the minor discrepancies that exist among the guides. The project will make it easier for implementers by providing a single source of documentation where the reuse between document types is made clear.
- The project will update all guides to use a consistent and current style of conformance statement and terminology binding and will ensure uniformity through publication out of a single template database.
- Finally, the project will create a unified and simplified platform to support US Realm requirements for these types of clinical documents and provide a strong basis for further enhancement.

# On the other hand...

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- Even though the Health Story announcement is good news, general progress on use case definitions and creation of a formal mechanism under the S&I Framework for contracting with the SDO's to develop standards and implementation guides specific to ONC's needs.

# On the other hand...

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- A report referred to as “PCAST” (President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology) was released in early December.
- One recommendation is the creation of a new simple “universal exchange language”.
  - Appears to throw current efforts and work on meaningful use into more confusion.

# On the other hand...

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- I have spoken to a couple of vendors (e.g., Carl and Epic) whose first reaction is that while it may sound like a good idea, the effort required to develop this, new language and re-engineer existing interfaces would take at least 10 years and over 1B\$ of effort just to get us back to where we are now.

# On the other hand...

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- The general rumor mill is that the bulk of this report was actually written by Craig Mundie, Chief Research and Strategy Officer of Microsoft and Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google.
- The report also suggests that we should not use SOA to develop Healthcare applications because they are inherently too complex...this in spite of the fact the most vendors have already moved the internal structures of their applications to SOA.