HDD Access Guide

Using HDD Access to Achieve Semantic Interoperability and Meaningful Use

3M

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How to Use the Guide

This guide is intended to provide a basic overview of HDD Access, a public initiative from 3M Health Information Systems, Inc., the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It explains how health care providers and other organizations can take advantage of HDD Access to support their Health Information Technology (HIT) initiatives. Hyperlinks to 3M websites and other online resources are included to direct you to additional information.

What HDD Access Means to You

Offered by 3M, the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

HDD Access is the result of an agreement between 3M Health Information Systems, Inc., the DoD and the VA, announced in May 2012. It makes 3M terminology content along with database and runtime services software available to the public.

The 3M™ Healthcare Data Dictionary (HDD) is a medical terminology server that has been in operational use at the DoD and other healthcare organizations for over 15 years, resulting in interoperable, computable, and actionable data for our customers. The public version of 3M HDD, called HDD Access, provides the enabling terminology solution to support a healthcare information network among the U.S. Military Health System (MHS), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), their partners, and stake-holders as well as any U.S. healthcare provider who takes advantage of the public user's license.

"Provide the right information to the right customers at the right time to improve and maintain health status across the entire continuum of military health care operations."

Mission of the MHS Office of the Chief Information Officer

The HDD Access approach to semantic interoperability complements electronic health record (EHR) systems by providing a method to implement terminology standards. It can help care providers achieve meaningful use standards established by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for HIT and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Using HDD Access with their enterprise EHR, organizations can fulfill the real intent of meaningful use—making health information actionable across HIT systems and networks.

The HDD Access can be applied to a broad range of systems, from scheduling and billing to diagnostics and therapy. It can be used across distributed organizations to help them:

- Meet standards requirements, including those outlined for meaningful use
- Track, measure and compare system data for quality reporting and analytics
- Provide accurate, consistent data for clinical decision support

HDD Access encourages adoption of a unifying framework for terminologies, which can be used to support semantic interoperability for the exchange of patient data between caregivers and care facilities, and across cities, regions, and any patient encounter—whether it's within one healthcare organization, across hundreds of facilities worldwide, or between the DoD, VA, U.S. hospitals and clinics providing care to beneficiaries.

HDD Access Integrates Multiple Terminologies

HIT systems use a variety of classification systems, vocabulary standards and proprietary code sets—collectively called medical terminologies—to encode health data. No single healthcare vocabulary or terminology is broad enough to represent all medical knowledge and data uses.

Each terminology in use today has been designed for different purposes by different healthcare constituencies. For example, a patient EHR could contain ICD-9-CM, CPT®, DRG, SNOMED CT® and "homegrown" codes. What is needed is a way for clinical information systems to mediate between the different terminologies. HDD Access provides a practical way by containing terminology content in a database.

The HDD Access approach to implementing terminology standards within a network of different HIT systems means users can translate data within their systems without being dependent on the way any particular standard is defined. In other words, it helps users become standards-compliant without being standards-dependent.

What does COLD mean?

The medical term "COLD" can have several different meanings. It could refer to temperature, a type of pulmonary disease or a respiratory infection. A clinician may easily understand the correct meaning, especially in the context of a patient encounter. But how can a computer correctly interpret the term? See the scenario in a short video.

Make Your EHR Data Actionable

Toward Meaningful Use

One of the challenges organizations face with meaningful use is that the data requirements are expressed as codes from multiple standard terminologies. Many EHRs use local codes that have not been mapped to the standard terminologies. In addition some EHRs lack a way to manage data domains and accommodate terminology updates.

HDD Access provides the framework for linking local codes to vocabulary standards and supports queries for normalized computatable data. It contains value sets and has mapping to standardized terminologies, which are available for authorized users.

Collaboration

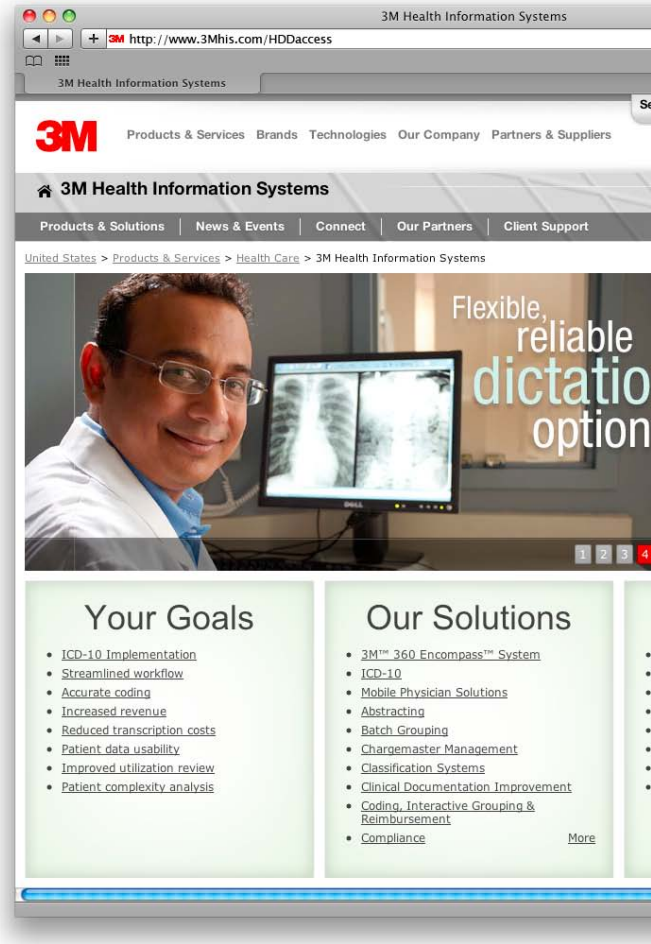
HDD Access creates opportunity for commercial entities to collaborate with other organizations. By using HDD Access an organization can exchange semantically interoperable data with other organizations. Using publicly available HDD Access reduces concerns about intellectual property restrictions, proprietary standards, and data integrity.

Users can build a community around the openly available content and share new content they develop among participating organizations.

Get It for Yourself

As the custodial agent for HDD Access, 3M has created an online portal for registered users to download software and collaborate with other users.

Go to 3Mhis.com/HDDaccess to learn more about how to register.



Online Resources

Visit www.3Mhis.com/HDDaccess for links to the community forum and the download site

Watch short videos on data interoperability and the potential of HDD Access on 3M Health Information Systems channel on YouTube.

Read what 3M experts have to say about sematic interoperability and standards in our blog

Download the white paper about using a medical data dictionary to comply with vocabulary standards and exchange clinical data

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