



Standard Specification for Coded Values Used in the Electronic Health Record¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 1633; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the identification of the lexicons to be used for the data elements identified in Appendix X1 of Guide E 1384. It is intended to unify the representations for: (1) primary record of care data elements, (2) the data elements identified in other standard statistical data sets, (3) data elements used in other healthcare data message exchange format standards, or (4) in data gathering forms for this purpose, and (5) in data derived from these elements in order that data recorded in the course of patient care be exchangeable and be the source of accurate statistical and resource management data. This specification is applicable to all paper and automated systems.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

E 1238 Specification for Transferring Clinical Observations Between Independent Computer Systems²

E 1239 Guide for Description of Reservation/Registration—Admission, Discharge, Transfer (R-ADT) Systems for Automated Patient Care Information Systems²

E 1384 Guide for Content and Structure of the Electronic Health Record (EHR)²

E 1715 Practice for an Object-Oriented Model for Registration, Admitting, Discharge, and Transfer (RADT) Functions in Computer-Based Record Systems²

E 1744 Guide for View of Emergency Medical Care in the Computer-Based Patient Record²

2.2 ANSI Standards:³

ANSX 3.50 Representation of Date and Time

ANSX 3.51 Representation of Common Units

2.3 ISO Standards:³

ISO 639 Names of Languages

ISO 2955 Representation of SI Units

ISO 3166 Names of Countries

ISO 5218 Representation of Human Sexes

ISO 8601 Representation Dates

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E-31 on Healthcare Informatics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E31.19 on Electronic Health Record Content and Structure.

Current edition approved April 10, 2000. Published June 2000. Originally published as E 1633–96. Last previous edition E 1633–99.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.01.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 W. 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

2.4 Other Standards:

HL-7 Health Industry Level 7 Interface Standards⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Acronyms:

3.1.1 NCHS—National Center for Health Statistics

3.1.2 NCVHS—National Committee for Vital and Health Statistics

3.1.3 NOS—not otherwise specified

4. Significance and Use

4.1 *Purpose*—The approval of Guide E 1384, concerned with the structure and content of the computer-based patient record, now includes a formal indexing of data elements and a cataloging of the minimal essential value set for these elements. Indexing of these data elements with a unique identifier keyed to its position in the logical structure of Appendix X1 of Guide E 1384 now provides a means of cataloging the value sets representing each data element (see Guide E 1384). Specification E 1238, coordinated with Guide E 1239, describes conventions for representing many of the data values for data elements that are included in the more comprehensive listing in Guide E 1384. A comprehensive listing of all of the value sets associated with Guide E 1384 has not yet been assembled. This specification begins to catalog the representation conventions for a number of these elements and in particular to list the coded values. It is important that this catalog consider the traditionally assigned representations for each of these elements, and it must resolve differences in a manner that introduces systematics and consistency into the representation. The catalog must establish both a global framework consistent with international standardization and with long-term growth, while at the same time maximizing familiar or traditional representations. This standard has been developed with input from many organizations, including government agencies and other standards bodies and professional associations, and as a result of the effort to achieve consistency and comprehensiveness among the data dealt with by various standards efforts.

4.2 *General Values*—Early in the coordination of healthcare information standards an informal body, the Healthcare Information Standards Coordinating Committee (HISCC), identified

⁴ Available from Health Level 7, Mark McDougall, Executive Director, 900 Victors Way, Suite 122, Ann Arbor, MI 48108.