



JAPAN ACADEMIC WORKSHOP

Friday, 17 November | 1:00pm -5:15pm

**Considerations for SDTM Implementation in Observational Studies
and Real World Data**

Presented by Jon Neville, Senior Director, Standards Development, CDISC





Meet the Speaker

Jon Neville

Title: Senior Director, Standards Development

Organization: CDISC

Jon Neville has been working in CDISC standards development since 2009. He has worked on a variety of development projects including TAUGs and biomedical concepts. He has been working at CDISC for 6 years.



Disclaimer and Disclosures

- *The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of CDISC.*



Agenda

1. Background
2. Project Framework and Overview
3. Sample Content
4. Current Status and Conclusions



Background

Why CDISC is interested in standards for RWD / Observational research.



Background

- Historically, CDISC standards were primarily developed for use in studies of regulated medical products
- Increased recognition of the value in using CDISC standards has led to increased interest in using standards in other areas of medical research and other areas of healthcare
- CDISC continues to be approached by research organizations/institutes and members asking for guidance on using our standards for these use cases.

CDISC Mission :

“...enable the accessibility, interoperability, and reusability of data, helping the entire field of clinical research tap into—and amplify—its full value.”

RWD and the Regulatory Environment

China's NMPA

国家药品监督管理局药品审评中心
CENTER FOR DRUG EVALUATION, NMPA
CHINA

关于公开征求《真实世界证据支持药物研发的基本考虑》意见的通知

发布日期: 20190529

为落实国务院《关于改革药品医疗器械审评审批制度的意见》(国发〔2015〕44号)以及中共中央办公厅、国务院办公厅印发的《关于深化审评审批制度改革鼓励药品医疗器械创新的意见》(厅字〔2017〕42号)鼓励研究和创新药的要求,考虑药物临床研发过程中,存在临床试验不可行或难以实施等情形,利用真实世界证据用以评价药物的有效性和安全性成为可能的一种策略和途径。

为了促进各方对真实世界证据的探索,探讨其在药物研发中的应用场景,探究其评价原则,经广泛调研和讨论,我中心组织起草了《真实世界证据支持药物研发的基本考虑(征求意见稿)》。

我们诚挚地欢迎社会各界对征求意见稿提出宝贵意见和建议,并及时反馈给我们,以便后续完善。征求意见稿自发布之日起3个月。

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联系方式: zhaojun@cde.org.cn, gaoying@cde.org.cn
感谢您的参与和大力支持。

附件 1: 《真实世界证据支持药物研发的基本考虑(征求意见稿)》中文版.docx
附件 2: Key Considerations in Using Real-World Evidence to Support Drug Development.docx
附件 3: 《真实世界证据支持药物研发的基本考虑(征求意见稿)》起草说明.doc

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<http://www.cde.org.cn/news.do?method=argelInfo&id=23a2b4cbe0807fe2>

US FDA

FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

FRAMEWORK FOR FDA'S REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE PROGRAM

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December 2018
www.fda.gov

<https://www.fda.gov/media/120060/download>

EU EMA

EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

EMA Regulatory Science to 2025

Strategic reflection

December 2018
www.ema.europa.eu

https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/document/s/regulatory-procedural-guideline/ema-regulatory-science-2025-strategic-reflection_en.pdf

Japan's PMDA

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA)

Utilization of Real World Data - PMDA's approaches -

23rd March, 2021

Health-related data are gathered and accumulated in the clinical practice day by day. These data are called Real World Data (RWD), and they include electronic health record, claims data, patient registry data, etc. RWD still provide valuable information related to the outcomes of using medical products, while RWD are not obtained in the same manner as well-designed clinical trials conducted to evaluate medical products.

At PMDA, we have already had some experiences of utilizing such existing data for evaluation benefit-risk balance in the regulatory process. For example, in the case of approval for an indication supplement of initial pneumonia associated with polymyositis/dermatomyositis. The 2013. Not only above case, but RWD has been utilized in many cases so far.

It has been making good use of RWD, it applied a case-by-case approach. It might not be widely known RWD can be utilized for regulatory submission. In order to promote RWD utilization further by product developers, the PMDA has recently developed and finalized two guidelines below:

<https://www.pmda.go.jp/english/about-pmda/0004.pdf>

CDISC RWD Connect Initiative



JMIR Publications

Advancing Digital Health & Open Science



JMIR Medical Informatics

Published on 27.1.2022 in **Vol 10, No 1 (2022): January**

📄 Preprints (earlier versions) of this paper are available at <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/30363>, first published June 01, 2021.



Use of Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) Standards for Real-world Data: Expert Perspectives From a Qualitative Delphi Survey

Rhonda Facile ¹ ; Erin Elizabeth Muhlbradt ² ; Mengchun Gong ^{3,4} ; Qingna Li ^{5,6,7} ; Vaishali Popat ⁸ ; Frank Pétavy ⁹ ; Ronald Cornet ¹⁰ ; Yaoping Ruan ¹¹ ; Daisuke Koide ¹² ; Toshiki I Saito ¹³ ; Sam Hume ¹ ; Frank Rockhold ¹⁴ ; Wenjun Bao ¹⁵ ; Sue Dubman ¹ ; Barbara Jauregui Wurst ¹



Project Framework and Overview

DRAGON

- One of 8 COVID projects funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI, via IMI2- Call21)
- 18 partners from Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, UK, US
- Goal: Apply artificial intelligence and machine learning to deliver a decision support system for improved and more rapid diagnosis and prognosis using imaging and associated clinical care data.
- CDISC was sub-awarded funds to help guide mapping of RWD
- With remaining funds, we produced the considerations document we are discussing today

Considerations for SDTM Implementation in Observational Studies and Real World Data

Goal

- To publish a CDISC-endorsed approach to working with observational research data
- Provide a “stake in the ground” for future expansion

Limited Scope of Use Cases

- **Observational Research Studies**
 - Cross-sectional studies
 - Cohort studies
- **Clinical trials:** external control arm (ECA) using RWD

Limited Scope of Standards Considered

- SDTM for now
- CDASH, ADaM could come in subsequent version

Teamwork Process

- Identified interested parties to participate in development

- Surveyed members about their experience/issues using CDISC in these areas

- Two groups, two weekly calls
 - Japan Group: primarily research-focused
 - US/Europe: Primarily clinical trials/External Control Arm-focused

- Developed document using CDISC Operating Procedures (COP-001, for standards development process)

Survey sent to team members:

- What types of non-interventional studies have you worked with?
- What are the biggest challenges you have experienced when using CDISC standards in observational studies?
- Have you used a model/standard besides SDTM to submit the data to regulatory agencies? In what ways was this easier or more difficult than SDTM?
- What aspects of the CDISC trial design model have and have not worked well for observational data?
- Regarding medications data, how have you handled missing dosing information?
- Have you attempted to create define files for observational study data, and if so, how did you approach define style sheets?
- Have you encountered any issues with CDISC metadata (e.g., origin of data that was imputed whereas CDISC considers it collected)? If so, how did you handle this?

Other Relevant Resources Considered

DRAGON DATA MAPPING GUIDE (ALL CONCEPTS)

Contents

Purpose	3
Mapping Goals	3
The Data Dictionary Mapping Tool	3
Tabs	4
• Domain Tabs – content and purpose	4
• Example Tabs – content and purpose	4

Microbiology Specimen
A findings domain that represents non-host organisms identified including bacteria, viruses, parasites, protozoa and fungi.

Variable	Units	Explanation	STDM Domain	Notes
COVID-19 proven by PCR	yes / no	If the COVID-19 diagnosis was proven by PCR	Microbiology Specimen (MB)	

Row 1: Shows a subject whose endotracheal fluid sample tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
Row 2: Shows a subject whose nasal swab sample tested negative for SARS-CoV-2
Row 3: Shows a subject whose infection was not confirmed by PCR

STUDYID	DOMAIN	USUBJID	MBSEQ	MBTEST	MBTSTDTL	MBBORRES	MBSTRES	MBSTAT
DRAGON	MB	DRAGON-[siteID]-001		Severe Acute Resp Syndrome Coronavirus 2	DETECTION	POSITIVE	POSITIVE	
DRAGON	MB	DRAGON-[siteID]-001		Severe Acute Resp Syndrome Coronavirus 2	DETECTION	NEGATIVE	NEGATIVE	
DRAGON	MB	DRAGON-[siteID]-001		Severe Acute Resp Syndrome Coronavirus 2	DETECTION	NEGATIVE	NEGATIVE	NOT DONE

Navigation: MH Examples | RP RP Examples | SC SC Examples | MB MB Examples | SU |



Data Standards for Non-Interventional Studies



PHUSE US Connect 2019

Paper S108

Considerations for Using CDISC Standards in Observational Studies

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ABSTRACT

Historically, CDISC standards have primarily been used for regulatory submissions of clinical trial data to support approval to market medical products. However, recent expansion of CDISC standards (TAUG) development and an increase in CDISC visibility has led to the use of CDISC standards in other areas of medical research as well. The existing biomedical standards, described mostly in TAUGs, is study-type-agnostic and designed for data derived from limited comparisons of data collected in observational studies. This paper discusses the challenges about the suitability of CDISC for this application. By seeking input from the CDISC research community and examining more use cases, CDISC aims to address issues in implementing standards in these types of studies.

INTRODUCTION

Observational studies differ from clinical trials in many ways regarding study goals, study design, subject populations, clinical trial regulatory requirements, and data collection / data management practices. Many of these differences have been seen as barriers to the adoption of CDISC standards in observational research. This paper discusses the challenges they present, and discuss at a high level how to reduce these challenges in the areas of medical research.

As a part of this effort to address these challenges, we ultimately propose producing a considerations document for the CDISC research community on how best to implement CDISC standards in observational research.

We will collaborate with the PHUSE Data Standards for Non-Interventional Studies workgroup to address some of these issues and solutions that meet the needs of a variety of users and use-cases as well as CDISC's own needs.

Some of the most commonly identified challenges reported by stakeholders interested in using CDISC standards in observational studies. We will briefly discuss what a solution or work-around may also be addressed as part of this project. We will briefly discuss what a solution or work-around to address some of these issues might look like, but these should not be viewed as CDISC's official recommendations on these issues. Our ultimate recommendations will be published in the considerations document that will come at a later date.

It is also important to note what is not in scope for this project. CDISC is not proposing at this point to produce a full implementation guide for observational studies. Also, we do not intend to produce solutions or guidance for addressing the numerous data quality issues inherent to legacy data conversion projects, another commonly-identified challenge in using CDISC standards for observational studies. Finally, at least for the first phase deliverables, we do not intend to focus on "real world data."

OBSERVATIONAL DATA

Unlike a randomized controlled trial, observational studies do not involve an intervention and no attempt is made on the part of the investigator to impact health outcomes. When collected in an academic or government research setting, observational data are often of high quality; these studies are protocol driven and subject to oversight by an Observational Study Monitoring Board. Like randomized controlled trials, observational studies vary in the study design employed and can be generally categorized as case-control, cohort, or cross-sectional studies. The intent of a randomized controlled trial is to determine the safety and/or efficacy of an intervention. In contrast, observational studies seek to relate potential risk factors to disease outcomes. Because of the lack of randomization, observational studies are more prone to bias and thus potential confounding factors must be collected in order to control for bias during analysis. Beyond research driven studies, observational data may also be generated from real world data sources including electronic health care records, claims and billing, patient registries, and mobile devices. These data have generally not been collected with the intent of supporting research and thus may be less complete and of lower

Considerations for Using SDTM for Observational Studies/RWD - Overview

Discussion on common issues encountered when implementing SDTM in observational data

Provide implementation strategies or guidance to address these issues.

Provide examples illustrating these strategies (where applicable)

- Reuse existing standards; create new domains and variables only if necessary

Discussion on adjusting conformance rules to better fit these data

- New conformance rules as needed
- Note irrelevant conformance rules for validation checks of observational studies.

Resulting document will be CDISC-endorsed by having gone through our development process.



What the document does *not* address...

- **SDTM implementation basics**
 - The document will supplement SDTMIG knowledge
- **How to handle dirty or missing data, such as imputing missing values**
- **Source-to-target mapping guidance**
 - Legacy data/RWD are too highly variable
- **How to improve a “validation score” on third-party validation software like P21**
 - We focus on impact of CDISC conformance rules
 - Any changes proposed *may* eventually be incorporated into such vendor software



Please also be aware...

This document is NOT a standard.

It is a white paper discussing how CDISC proposes to address commonly encountered issues implementing SDTM when working with observational data.

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Purpose
- 1.2 Use Cases/Study Types

2 TYPES OF COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED ISSUES

- 2.1 Using the Adverse Events and Clinical Events Domains
- 2.2 Using the Exposure and Concomitant Medications Domains
- 2.3 Representing Cohorts with Planned and Actual Arm Variables
- 2.4 Handling Reference Dates and Study Days
- 2.5 Trial Summary Issues

3 CONFORMANCE RULES AND VALIDATION CHECKS

- 3.1 Conformance Rules - Dataset Level
- 3.2 Conformance Rules - Variable Level

4 DEMOGRAPHICS AND STUDY DESIGN EXAMPLES

- 4.1 Demographics Examples
- 4.2 Trial Summary Examples
- 4.3 Trial Arms Examples

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Glossary and Abbreviations
- Appendix B: References
- Appendix C: Representations and Warranties, Limitations of Liability, and Disclaimers

- Most common issues identified from community input
- Presented in table format, addressed by use case
- Conformance rules likely to be broken by working with observational data
- Coping strategies and proposed changes to conformance rules discussed
- Minimal examples provided
- Section 2 discussion of how to arrive at SDTM is more informative



Sample Content

(Conformance rules and SDTM example content is part of the document but not included here)

Example of Issue Discussion Table – EX vs CM

2.2 Using the Exposure and Concomitant Medications Domains [\[Go\]](#)

The exposure domains are used for protocol-defined treatments that may not be applicable to observational or ECA studies. [OBVS-55 UNDER GGG REVIEW](#)

Summary	Study Type	Challenge Presented	Recommended SDTM Strategy
Using the Exposure and Concomitant Medications Domains	Case-Control or Cohort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No protocol-defined treatmentDistinction between therapies for disease under study vs all other treatments may not be relevant to observational studies	<p>Any medications used to treat the disease under study should be represented using the EC/EX domains, if the investigator deems it appropriate. All other treatments (e.g., prescription, non-prescription, historical treatments) should be represented in the CM domain.</p> <p>Alternatively, the sponsor may choose to represent all medications in the CM domain.</p>
	External Control Arm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No protocol-defined treatmentTreatments for the disease under study vs all other treatments are important to distinguish	<p>The medication deemed by the investigator to be the comparator to the experimental drug (i.e., used to treat the disease under study) should be represented using the EC/EX domains.</p> <p>All other treatments (e.g., prescription, non-prescription, historical treatments) should be represented in the CM domain. OBVS-59 UNDER GGG REVIEW</p>

- Issue(s) are summarized, and challenges are discussed by use case
- Recommended strategy for implementing in SDTM is provided
- Where useful, SDTM examples are provided.

Example of Issue Discussion Table – TS

Trial Summary Issues

Created by Alana St. Clair, last modified by Jon Neville a minute ago

Summary	Study Type	Challenge Presented	Recommended SDTM Strategy
How to Define Study Start Date	Observational studies	Study Start Date (TSPARMCD = SSTDTDC) for SDTM is defined as "The earliest date of informed consent among any subject (Date/Time of Informed Consent, RFICDTC) that enrolled in the study." Informed consent may not be available for observational studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsors should set the study start date to the earliest reference start date for any subject.• Document how the study start date was defined/populated in the Define.XML or a study data reviewer's guide if Define.XML is not used.
	ECA studies	Study Start Date (TSPARMCD = SSTDTDC) for SDTM is defined as "The earliest date of informed consent among any subject (Date/Time of Informed Consent, RFICDTC) that enrolled in the study." Informed consent may not be available for RWD.	It is recommended to use the earliest start date of any subject's first line of therapy.
Study Type	Observational studies	None identified	Use "OBSERVATIONAL" from Study Type Response codelist
	ECA studies	No controlled terminology available at this time. Study Type Response codelist is non-extensible.	Use "EXTERNAL CONTROL ARM" and explain the error in the SDRG.



External documentation is an integral part of the strategy

- The use and derivation of some variables will need to be explained
 - For ECA studies / regulatory submission:
 - A study data reviewer's guide
 - Define.XML
 - For basic observational research:
 - Something like a study data reviewer's guide will be necessary and helpful



Status and Conclusions

Timeline

62 issues reported in Jira from beginning of internal review to end of public review

Kick-off: 6/29/22

Development phase:
OCT 2022- MAR 2023

Public review Completed
09/2023

Publication by end of year



Lessons learned

Most conformance rules can be followed. Some failures will have to be explained in an external reviewer's guide or define.XML

Existing SDTM domains cover what we need for the use cases we've examined.

Existing variables can also be used as-is or repurposed

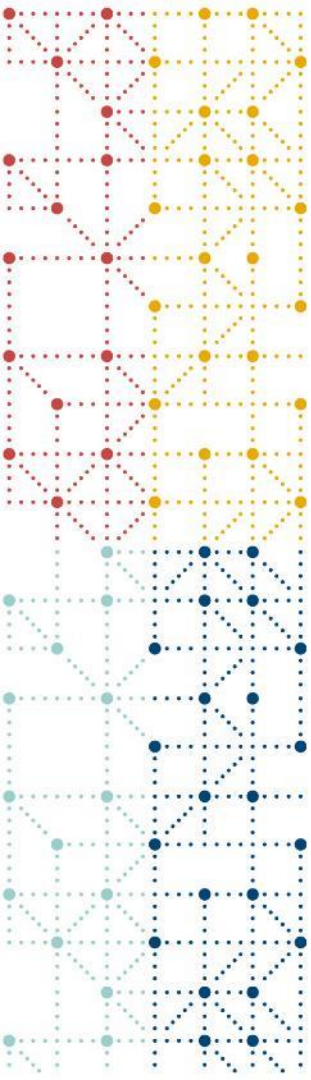
- e.g., ARM can be used to represent cohorts

SDTM Examples are less informative than discussions of considerations

- Examples look like normal SDTM examples
- Discussing how we arrived at the modeling, and how to explain that to reviewers is more impactful

Conclusions

- The “Considerations for SDTM Implementation in Observational Studies and Real World Data” document is on schedule for publication by end of 2023
- It was produced with limited funding and has a limited scope.
- It is not an “implementation guide” (terminology reserved for standards) It is not a standard but was developed using COP-001
- This document could serve as the foundation for future development with expanded use cases and broader input
- With input from regulators, it *could* evolve into a standard in the future, but...
- As of today, no follow-up project is planned.



Thank You!

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