January 6, 2021

Dear healthcare colleagues across the world,

As 2021 has just started, I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you the Joint Initiative Council's progress and achievements during these unprecedented times.

Since its inception, the Joint Initiative Council for Global Health Informatics Standardization (JIC) has worked to strengthen the important role of health informatics standards to enable interoperability of information and processes across health domains. Our goal is to support the timely, efficient delivery of safe, coordinated, accountable, high-quality health services to individuals, communities and populations and to facilitate effective global markets for health information systems.

As researchers, manufacturers, government agencies, regulators and healthcare providers joined together to restore the world's health, standards development organisations (SDOs) of the Joint Initiative Council have collaborated to deliver standards that address many real-world issues. It is these coordinated (not competitive) standards that help define the JIC's commitment to the healthcare industry— the JIC members provide standards that enable the digital transformation and interoperability of global healthcare systems and processes.

Consider that **SNOMED International** and **LOINC** worked together to help global care teams code and track SARS-CoV-2 testing and COVID-19 cases, supporting clinicians and researchers in their efforts to address monitoring and containment. The Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (**CDISC**) released the Interim User Guide for COVID-19 that addresses how to represent research data in COVID-19 studies and CDISC standards specify how to structure research data for regulatory submissions.

Another key achievement was the International Patient Summary (IPS), a collaboration that began between **CEN/TC251** and **HL7 International** , but was soon expanded to include **ISO/TC 215**, **IHE International** and **SNOMED International**. The IPS provides essential data about a patient's healthcare, that can be made available whenever and wherever it is needed for treatment …even across jurisdictional borders locally, regionally or internationally. It effectively provides an information "bridge" from the patient's home healthcare system to another for seamless continuity of care.

cdisc
Clinical Data Interchange
Standards Consortium

cen Health Informatics TC251
European Committee
for Standardisation

DICOM
Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine

GS1
GS1

HL7 International
Health Level Seven International

IHE Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise
Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise

ISO HEALTH INFORMATICS TC215
International Organisation for Standardisation

LOINC From Regenstrief
Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes

SNOMED International
SNOMED International

Since a medicine's product name, as well as how it is administered and measured, may differ from country to country it can cause confusion and cost valuable time, pain and lives. In response, the Identification of Medicinal Products (IDMP) project was initiated by members of the global healthcare industry and regulators, and implemented by **CDISC , CEN TC251, GS1, HL7 International, ISO TC215, and SNOMED International**. The IDMP suite of standards delivers a uniform way for digitalising and sharing key product information about pharmaceuticals—their ingredients, strengths, forms of presentation, routes of administration and packaging.

These are just a few examples of JIC's forward looking initiatives to realise a digital healthcare system that can make high-quality data available to the right people, at the right place and at the right time. These projects were further explained in the White Paper published in July of last year.

As we enter 2021, join us for our JIC webinar **on February 23** when we will host compelling discussions about our activities and how we will reinforce our continued collaboration in support of a healthcare system that is highly effective, efficient and safe.

Sincerely,

Ulrike Kreysa
Current Chair, Joint Initiative Council
Senior Vice-President, GS1 Healthcare