Data Standards in HHS Data Collection

2012 National Conference on Health Statistics
Washington, D.C.
August 6–8, 2012

Marjorie S. Greenberg
Classifications and Public Health Data Standards Staff
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Agenda

- The Case for Data Standards
- International Classification of Diseases
- Electronic Health Record Standards for Vital Statistics
- Demographic standards for HHS surveys
- Collection of socioeconomic status data in HHS surveys
The Case for Data Standards

- Data Standards are the common language that allows:
  - sharing information
  - communication across disciplines
  - integration of disparate data systems
  - comparisons among data sets and across geographic areas
  - linkage of data in a secure environment
  - exchange of data between clinical and population-based data systems
The Case for Data Standards

- Data Standards are the essential building blocks of information systems
  - Classification Systems and Terminologies (e.g., ICD, ICF, SNOMED)
  - Core Data Sets (vital statistics, hospital discharge data)
  - Identifiers (provider, plan, individual)
  - Message formats (e.g., HL–7 and X12)
  - Privacy and Security
  - Implementation Guides
Data Standards are the fundamental building blocks for:
- an effective and efficient health care system
- disease surveillance
- monitoring the health and health care of the nation
- performing outcomes research
- providing information for decision making and policy development
International Perspective

- Health data standards can be traced back several centuries
  - London Bills of Mortality – 17th Century
  - Florence Nightingale – mid – 19th Century
  - Bertillon classification – late 19th century
  - International Organization for Standardization (ISO) – 1947
  - World Health Organization (WHO) – 1948
  - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – 1961
  - Health Level Seven International – 1987
  - Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise – 1997
National Center for Health Statistics
  ° Birth and Death Certificates
  ° Clinical modifications of ICD
  ° Health Interview and Examination Surveys
National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) – uniform data sets
U.S. Bureau of the Census – demographics variables
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
  ° Race and Ethnicity Categories
DHHS – Consolidated Health Informatics, Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records
HHS Data Council – ACA standards
HL-7, ANSI X12, NCPDP – messaging standards
Some Take–Away Thoughts

- Everyone likes standards – especially their own!
- It takes a lot of time and patience to develop standards and even more to implement them.
- It’s best to start with minimum standards.
- You need to be at the table.
- Standards increasingly are global.