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# **Naming Convention for pan-Canadian Reference Sets and Value Sets**

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## Preface

### Overview

- 1) The objective of this document is to provide rules for consistent naming of pan-Canadian reference sets and value sets.
- 2) In order to promote similar interpretation of the intent of a specific reference or value set, a consistent naming convention is required. This consistency will aid jurisdictions, vendors and other implementers in identifying existing sets of terms that they can adapt or adopt to meet their business needs. The naming convention can also be applied to reference and value sets developed in the future to support ongoing consistency in naming.

### Use of SHALL and SHOULD

The document uses the terms SHALL and SHOULD to indicate the importance of following in the corresponding rule.

“SHALL” is defined as: the specified rule is mandatory to follow and any deviation from the specified rule is not allowed.

“SHOULD” is defined as: the specified rule is strongly recommended to be followed where possible. Any deviation from the specified rule is strongly recommended to be documented where possible.



## Naming Conventions

### For pan-Canadian Reference Sets and Value Sets

The following steps provide guidance and rules for creating a name for a **new** reference or value set.

On existing reference or value set, all metadata elements can be modified, except for the URL, the Name, or the Identifiers. Updating URL, Name, or Identifiers would constitute a new Value Set. (ref:

<https://confluence.hl7.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=91995515#SpecifyingtheDetailsInsi detheProposal-ChangestoanExistingValueSet>)

Steps 1 and 2 (SHALL) are always required, whereas steps 3 to 6 (SHOULD) need only be applied when applicable. Guidance and rules were leveraged from HL7 International and SNOMED International.

- 1) **Uniqueness:** The names used for reference or value sets in the pan-Canadian Terminology Specification must be unique. Therefore, any proposed name SHALL have been researched (on the Terminology Gateway or in the OID registry) to ensure that the name is not already in use.

- 2) **Structure:**

A reference or value set name SHALL:

- i) Only contain alphanumeric characters in UTF-8 encoded format
- ii) Use UpperCamelCase format
- iii) Have no white spaces between words
- iv) Use no special characters (e.g. "/" )
- v) Use singular, not plural form
- vi) End with the word 'Code' when it is code-based and content is enumerated: e.g. UpperCamelCase**Code**
- vii) Include no abbreviation unless an abbreviation is already established in existing Terminology artifacts.
- viii) Have a generic meaning with no words specifying context of use (e.g. EMR HSU)
- ix) Be in US English for English language.
- x) Have a maximum length of 128 characters.
- xi) Be consistent with the name assigned by an owning international standards development organization (SDO), such as HL7 International.

A reference or value set name SHOULD:

- i) Avoid the use of abbreviations or acronyms



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### 3) **Names for new reference and value sets within Pan-Canadian Terminology**

**Specifications maintained by Canada Health Infoway** SHALL use the following rules:

- i) For patient-focused reference or value sets, the term "Client" SHALL be used to align with existing standards artifacts.
- ii) For clinician-focused reference or value sets, the term "Provider" SHALL be used to align with existing standards artifacts.

Specified SDO naming conventions (see HL7 International Naming Convention below) takes precedence over rules i) and ii).

### 4) **Subsets of larger reference or value sets:** Larger (parent) reference or value sets can be further refined into smaller (child) sets to facilitate implementation in specific settings. Child reference or value sets SHOULD be named using the following criteria:

- i) **code-based content, enumerated:** If the reference or value set is being enumerated, an upper case word or a CamelCase phrase SHALL be combined with the pattern selected for the code system name.
  - For example: AntigenCode
- ii) The Child reference or value set name be derived from the parent reference or value set name to indicate its relationship to the parent the reference or value set
  - For Example: ReferralServiceCodeSubsetPhysician
- iii) The Child reference or value set name shall include the word "subset".
  - For Example: ReferralServiceCodeSubsetService

### 5) **Reference and value sets within pan-Canadian Terminology Specifications from HL7 International code systems, such as ActClass, ActMood, ActRelationshipType, ParticipationType, RoleClass, RoleLinkType, EntityClass, EntityDeterminer** SHOULD use the following pattern rules within the name:

- i) **code system name:** The first element of the reference or value set name SHALL BE the code system name as above.
  - For Example: ActMoodCompletionTrack
- ii) **"all codes":** If the reference or value set is "all codes" from the designated code system, the first element name is sufficient. i.e. The reference or value set name will be identical to the code system name.
  - For Example: ActMood
- iii) **code-based content, transitive:** If the reference or value set is defined as a code from the primary code system and all of that code's descendants, the name SHALL be formed by concatenating an UpperCamelCase rendition of the "print name" for that code to the first element.
  - For Example: RoleClassPartitive





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- iv) **code-based content, enumerated:** If the reference or value set is being enumerated, an upper case word or a CamelCase phrase SHALL be concatenated to the first element.
  - For Example: RoleClassMolecularPart

### 6) Reference and value sets within pan-Canadian Terminology Specifications drawn from other HL7 International code systems:

- i) **code system name:** The first element of the reference or value set name SHOULD be the "short" code system name for the **primary** HL7-maintained value set or value set library from which it draws value.
  - Review existing value sets based on that code system to determine any previously used pattern involving the code system name. Some of these are not in the first element, and others split the name. If an existing pattern is present, it SHOULD be used.
- ii) **"all codes":** If the reference or value set is "all codes" from the designated code system, the first element name is sufficient.
  - For Example: EntityStatus
- iii) **code-based content, transitive:** If the reference or value set is defined as a code from the primary code system and all of that code's descendants, the name SHALL be formed by combining an UpperCamelCase rendition of the "print name" with the pattern selected for the code system name.
  - For Example: MedicationOrderReleaseReasonCode
- iv) **code-based content, enumerated:** If the reference or value set is being enumerated, an upper case word or a CamelCase phrase SHALL be combined with the pattern selected for the code system name.
  - For Example: ActClaimAttachmentCategoryCode
  - For Example: AntigenCode

### 7) "X\_" Value Sets

In the pan-Canadian terminology documentation, there are some value sets where the name is prefixed with "X\_" (e.g. x\_BasicConfidentialityKind). ***This no longer applies to newly created value sets.*** Historically, HL7 created these "X\_" value sets for HL7 structural codes (e.g. ActClass, EntityDeterminer) and consisted of an arbitrary list of codes that did not represent any semantic grouping in the code system. As HL7 has clarified its understanding of the various terminology artifacts and developed tooling that allows the various terminology artifacts to be displayed and maintained separately, the need for the term "X-domain" has been eliminated. Therefore, the use of this term is deprecated. There is no longer a requirement to follow a special naming convention when creating arbitrary enumerated *Value Sets*, though existing *Value Sets* with the "x\_" prefix will be retained to avoid issues for artifacts that reference the *Value Sets* by these names.



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**NB:** Naming rules for HL7 International reference and value sets are determined by HL7 International and the rules here were last updated on July 12, 2011. The HL7 International Naming Conventions are located here:

[http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=Value\\_Set\\_Naming\\_Conventions](http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=Value_Set_Naming_Conventions).

Current UTG Guidance can be found here:

<https://confluence.hl7.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=90900816#SpecifyingtheDetailsInsidetheProposal-CreatingaNewValueSet>

### 8) PrescribeIT® Shared Subset

In 2016, Telus had developed an ePrescribing FHIR messaging standard and was planning to go to market when Infoway submitted an RFP for PrescribeIT®. Telus responded to ePrescribing solutions in Canada and proposed that the FHIR messaging standard be used, which was accepted by Infoway.

During the same timeframe, Telus had developed a service called MedDialog, which is a secure messaging solution that allows EMRs to share clinical data amongst themselves and other partners on the network (non-Pharmacy). Both the ePrescribing service and the MedDialog service were being implemented by the same EMR vendor community. Both services were using the same Provider registry and the same provider registry queries which allowed EMRs to obtain current data on providers/organizations enrolled to PrescribeIT® or MedDialog service. The main principal around the standard is that it is not proprietary, and is intended to be usable across multiple implementations. This is what Telus was aiming for and is doing to save vendors time, effort and money.

Telus's approach with vocabulary was to not create a PrescribeIT® specific terminology set or a MedDialog specific code set. Telus wanted a name that would serve these two projects as well as future projects so that the value sets could be used by anybody who saw value in using them. The name that was created and agreed to, though not ideal, was "Shared", because it seemed neutral and clear to vendors that this was not just used for a single project. These value sets are in active use in MedDialog so changing the name is not viable option as it would cause vendor issues as well as specification changes.

For Example: SharedOrganizationType (Organization type codes supported for Shared Health systems)