



IVC Training

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THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

BORDEAUX FRANCE

Big Picture & Importance of Vocabulary

American Tourist in Japan



小麦粉

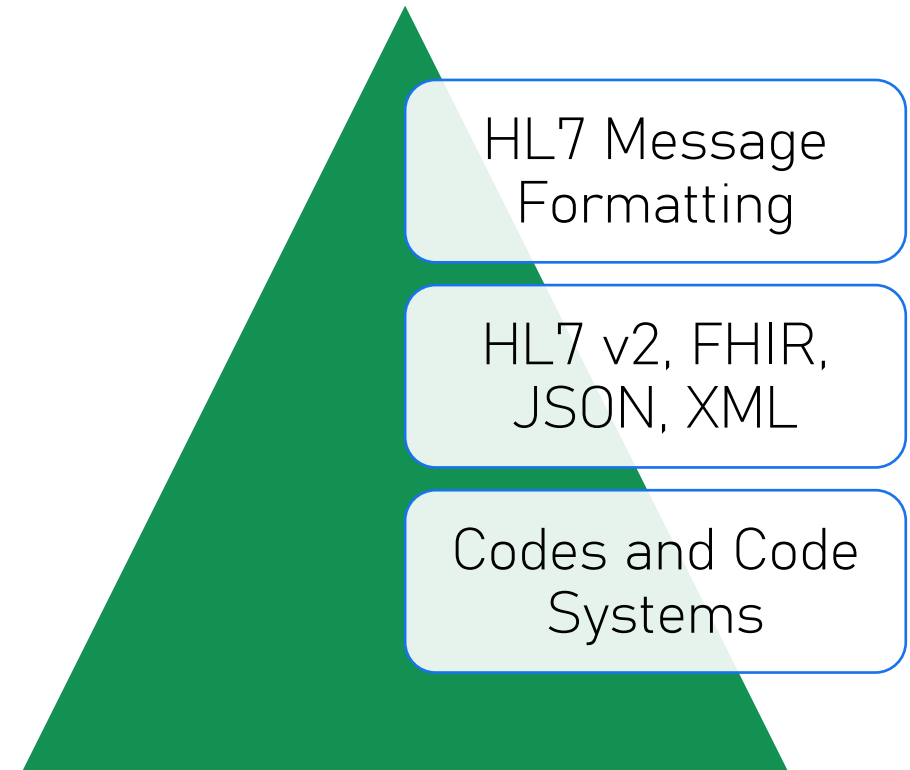
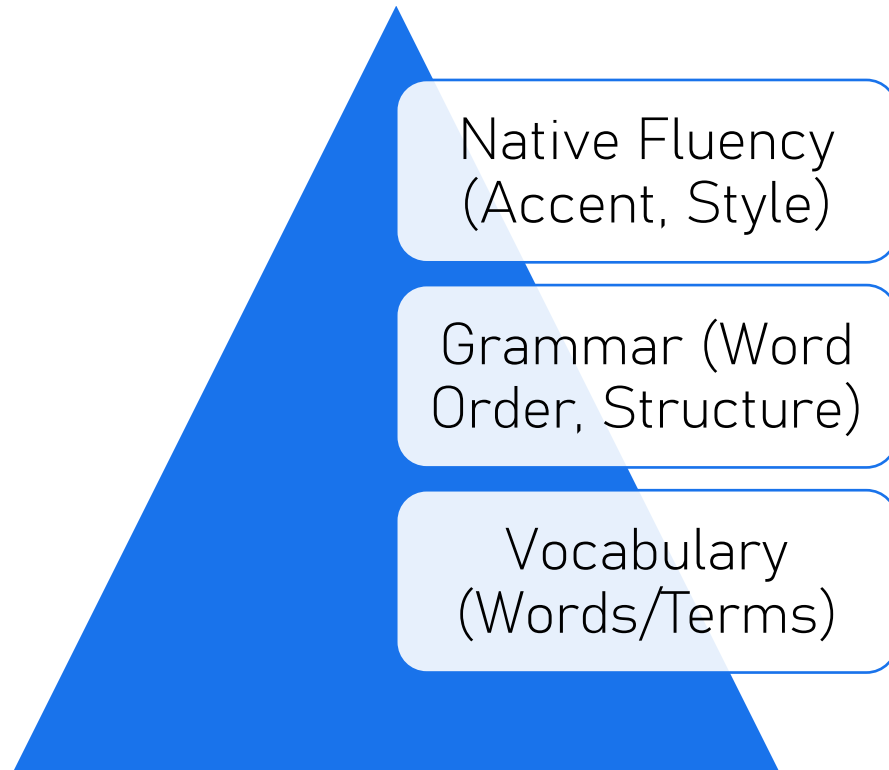
Komugiko



Please, dear sir, can you be so kind as to help
direct me to the _____ ?



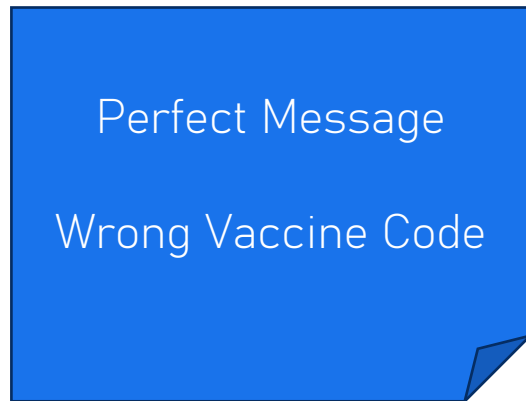
Vocabulary vs Grammar – Communication Hierarchy



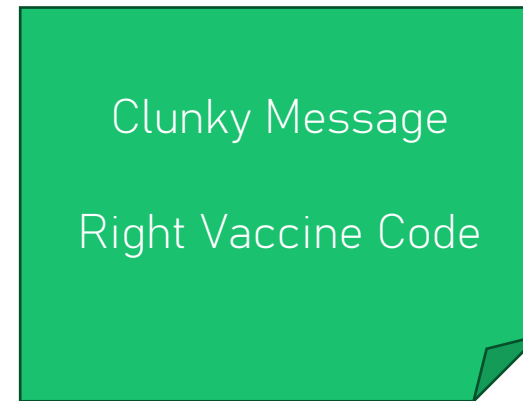
In health data, just like in language, structure is helpful. But the **words** you use carry the actual meaning. If the word is wrong, the structure can't save you.

In Health Data Exchange, Vocabulary = Meaning

- Vocabulary \neq “labels”—they are deeply coded and governed concepts.
- HL7/FHIR don't define meaning — they define structure.
- Meaning travels in code systems, value sets, and the vocabulary chosen.



Failure



Usable

Most Data Quality Problems = Vocabulary Problems

- Most communication complexity lives in definitions, not format.
- Grammar and structure can't make up for wrong or unclear vocabulary.
- Most real-world data validation work focuses on ensuring correct vocabulary, not messaging syntax.

Vocabulary is the Core of Interoperability

- Codes = Meaning
 - They carry all the clinical relevance.
- Structure Helps, Vocabulary Enables
 - HL7/FHIR can carry any code; only good codes carry good data.
- Your Message Is Only as Good as Its Vocabulary
 - This is why coding is at the heart of public health data quality.



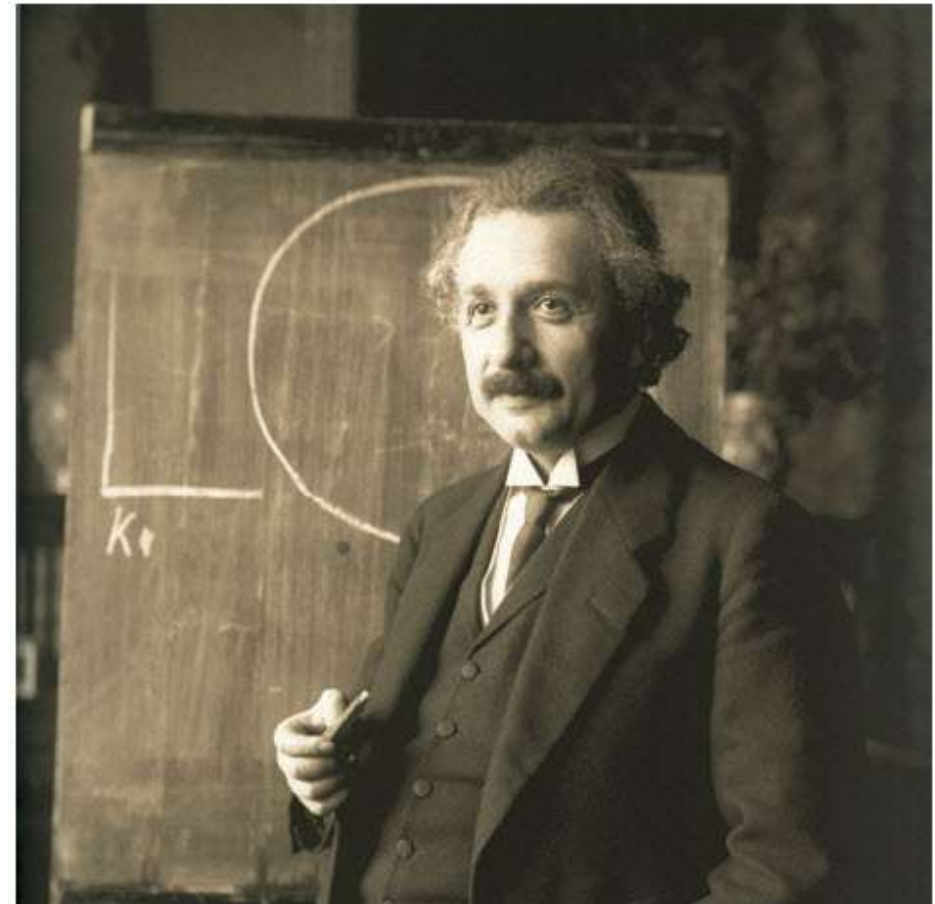
komugiko, harina, farine, flour

Vocabulary in Health Data Exchange

Place, Language, and Vocabulary

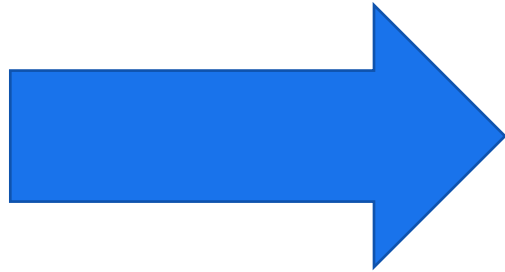
Communication Needs Three Things

- Interested in $E = mc^2$?
- Want to talk to Einstein?
- What is needed to communicate?



Place

TARDIS



Zurich Park Bench in 1905



Language

- Sprechen Sie
Duetsch?

Einstein's 1905 Paper On the Electrodynamics of Moving bodies

3. Zur Elektrodynamik bewegter Körper; von A. Einstein.

Daß die Elektrodynamik Maxwells — wie dieselbe gegenwärtig aufgefaßt zu werden pflegt — in ihrer Anwendung auf bewegte Körper zu Asymmetrien führt, welche den Phänomenen nicht anzuhafien scheinen, ist bekannt. Man denke z. B. an die elektrodynamische Wechselwirkung zwischen einem Magneten und einem Leiter. Das beobachtbare Phänomen hängt hier nur ab von der Relativbewegung von Leiter und Magnet, während nach der üblichen Auffassung die beiden Fälle, daß der eine oder der andere dieser Körper der bewegte sei, streng voneinander zu trennen sind. Bewegt sich nämlich der Magnet und ruht der Leiter, so entsteht in der Umgebung des Magneten ein elektrisches Feld von gewissem Energiewerte, welches an

Vocabulary

- Elektrodynamik Maxwells
- Körper
- Phänomen
- Wechselwirkung

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Vocabulary

- Elektrodynamik
Maxwells
 - Maxwells Electrodynamics
- Körper
 - Body
- Phänomen
 - Phenomenon
- Wechselwirkung
 - Interaction

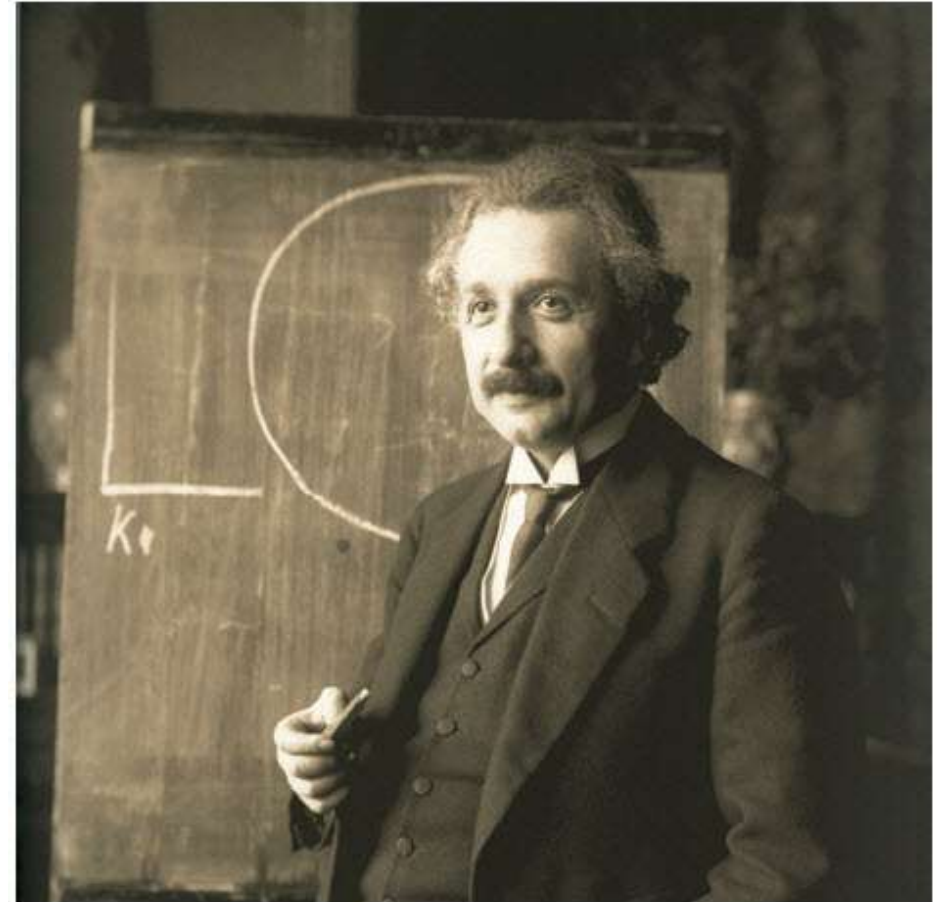
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Communication Needs Three Things

- Place
- Language
- Vocabulary

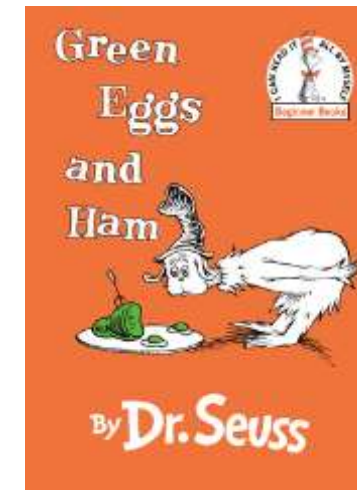
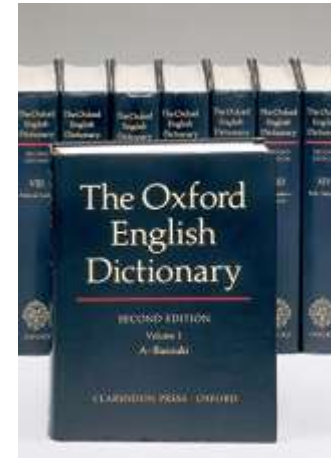


Communication Needs Three Things

- Place
- Language
- Vocabulary
- Secure Transport
- HL7 v2, FHIR, JSON, XML, flat file, etc.
- SNOMED-CT, CVX, CPT, ATC, ICD-11, CVC

Key Vocabulary Concepts in Health Data

- Code System
 - The dictionary (e.g., CVX, SNOMED, ICD)
- Code
 - A single word or entry (e.g., CVX 10 = Polio)
- Value Set
 - A curated list for one specific purpose (e.g., all routine childhood vaccines)



ICD-11 Example

- ICD-11
 - 17 000 unique codes
- You would not use all the terms for a specific use case
 - Imagine a 17 000 items on a drop down!
- Arranged in a hierarchy

XM11V3

- ▽ Vaccines
 - ▽ XM3KV2 Bacterial vaccines
 - ▷ XM29K4 Cholera vaccines
 - ▽ XM11V3 Haemophilus influenzae B vaccines
 - XM6RG9 Hib, purified antigen conjugated vaccines
 - XM7F70 Hib, combinations with toxoids vaccines
 - XM81F7 Hib, combinations with pertussis and toxoids vaccines
 - XM0X86 Hib, combinations with meningococcus C, conjugated vaccines
 - XM1LX9 Diphtheria, hemophilus influenzae B, pertussis, poliomyelitis, tetanus vaccines
 - XM01H1 Hemophilus influenzae B and poliomyelitis vaccines
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 - XM7JP3 Diphtheria, hemophilus influenzae B, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B vaccines
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 - XM21E6 Diphtheria tetanus, acellular pertussis, inactivated polio virus, haemophilus Influenzae type B vaccines
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 - ▷ XM2WV4 Meningococcal vaccines
 - ▷ XM43M9 Pertussis vaccines
 - ▷ XM9EM7 Pneumococcal vaccines
 - ▷ XM5L44 Tetanus vaccines
 - ▷ XM8BU8 Typhoid vaccines

CVX Example

- Use a subset based on use case
 - Recording newly administered vaccinations
 - Recording historical vaccinations
 - VIS statements

Short Description	Full Vaccine name	CVX Code	Vaccine Status	Last Updated Date	Notes
Adenovirus types 4 and 7	Adenovirus, type 4 and type 7, live, oral	143	Active	3/20/2011	This vaccine is administered as 2 tablets.
Adenovirus types 4 and 7	Adenovirus, type 4 and type 7, live, oral	143	Active	3/20/2011	This vaccine is administered as 2 tablets.
adenovirus, type 4	adenovirus vaccine, type 4, live, oral	54	Inactive	5/28/2010	
adenovirus, type 4	adenovirus vaccine, type 4, live, oral	54	Inactive	5/28/2010	
adenovirus, type 7	adenovirus vaccine, type 7, live, oral	55	Inactive	5/28/2010	
adenovirus, type 7	adenovirus vaccine, type 7, live, oral	55	Inactive	5/28/2010	
adenovirus, unspecified formulation	adenovirus vaccine, unspecified formulation	82	Inactive	9/30/2010	This CVX code allows reporting of a vaccination when formulation is unknown (for example, when recording a adenovirus vaccination when noted on a vaccination card)

HL7 v2 Supports Multiple Codes for One Concept

Table 4-2 Coded Element (CE)

SEQ	Component Name	Data Type	Usage	LEN	Conditional Predicate	Value Set	Comments
1	Identifier	ST	R	1..50			Identifying Code.
2	Text	ST	RE	1..999			Human readable text that is not further used.
3	Name of Coding System	ID	R	1..20		HL70396	
4	Alternate Identifier	ST	RE	1..50			Alternate Identifying code.
5	Alternate Text	ST	C(RE/X)	1..999	If CE-4 (Alternate Identifier) is valued		Human readable text that is not further used.
6	Name of Alternate Coding system	ID	C(R/X)	1..20	If CE-4 (Alternate Identifier) is valued	HL70396	

Vaccination Fields in HL7 v2

ORC|RE||2982^NDA|||||1121^Medina^Laura|^Jack^Randall^E^^^MD^^CMS^^^NPI

CVX Code

NDC Code

RXA|0|1|20171130|20171130|115^Tdap^CVX^58160-0842-52^^NDC|0.5|mL^^UCUM|

|00^New immunization record^ NIP001|^Medina^Laura^^^^^|^^NV1234|||T975M|20180415|

Manufacturer

SKB^GlaxoSmithKline^MVX|||CP|A|

Route

Site

RXR|IM^Intramuscular^HL70162|LD^Left Deltoid^HL70163

FHIR: Repeatable Codings with Clear Systems

- Uses as a “URL”
 - Not to be used in a browser
 - Meant to be universally unique
- Just like HL7 v2, more than one can be sent at a time

```
json
{
  "vaccineCode": {
    "coding": [
      { "system": "http://hl7.org/fhir/sid/cvx", "code": "10", "display": "Polio" },
      { "system": "http://example.org/local", "code": "POL123", "display": "Polio (Local)" }
    ]
  }
}
```

No Matter the Format, Vocabulary Carries the Meaning

- Code sets are more foundational and last longer than interoperability formats
- CVX example
 - Created in 1990s for flat file and floppy disks
 - Reused in 2000s for HL7 v2 via the “web”
 - Reused again in 2020s for FHIR



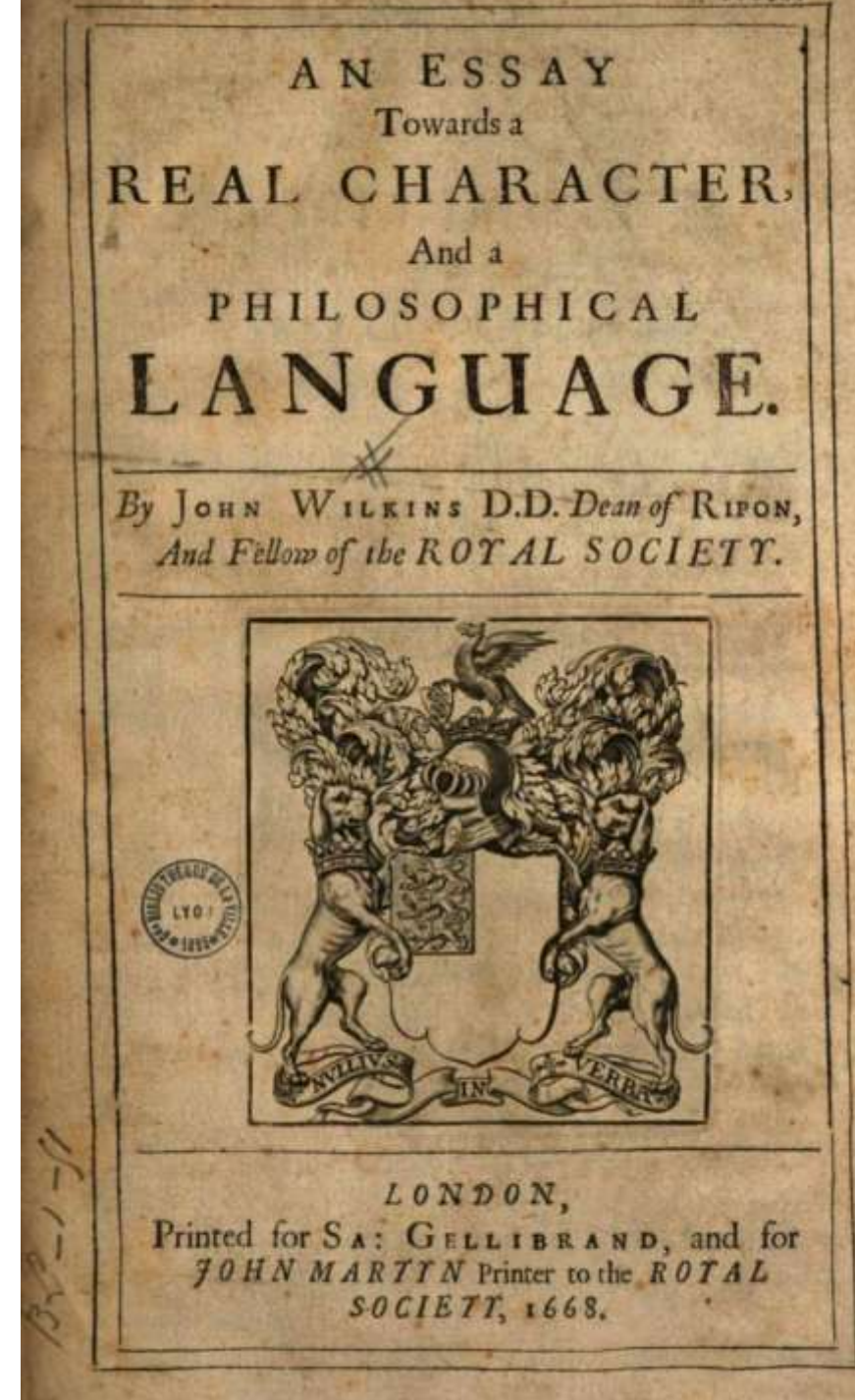
The Challenge of Coding Systems

The Challenge of Vocabulary: Classifying the World with Words

- Why we can't have just one code system for everything
- Why code systems are never complete, and always changing
- Why code systems can be both too specific and too generic

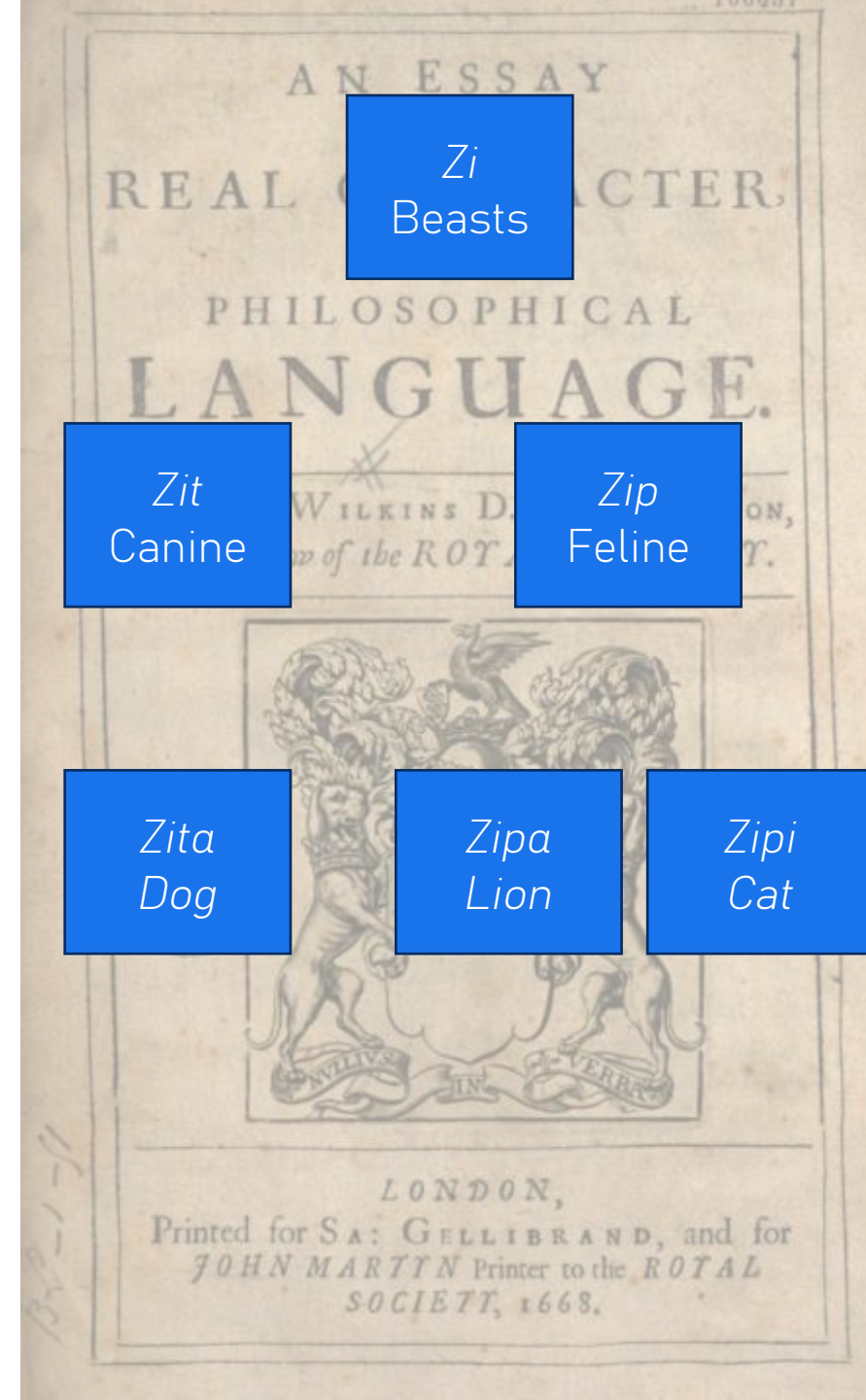
One Code System for All

- John Wilkins created a “Philosophical Language”
 - Perfectly logical language
 - Classify everything in the universe into a hierarchical tree of concepts



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- Required John to
 - First understand the structure of everything that exists
 - Including biology, chemistry, behavior, society
 - Even things not yet discovered



One Code System for All

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“The impossibility of penetrating the divine scheme of the universe cannot dissuade us from planning human schemes, even though we are aware they must be provisional.” – Borges



If only they would stop inventing vaccines...

- The world of vaccines is always changing
 - New diseases
 - New platforms
 - New combinations
- Rate of change is increasing
- Need to adapt to new diseases is increasing
- We must work keep vaccine code sets up-to-date

Which is better:

To be more general or more specific?

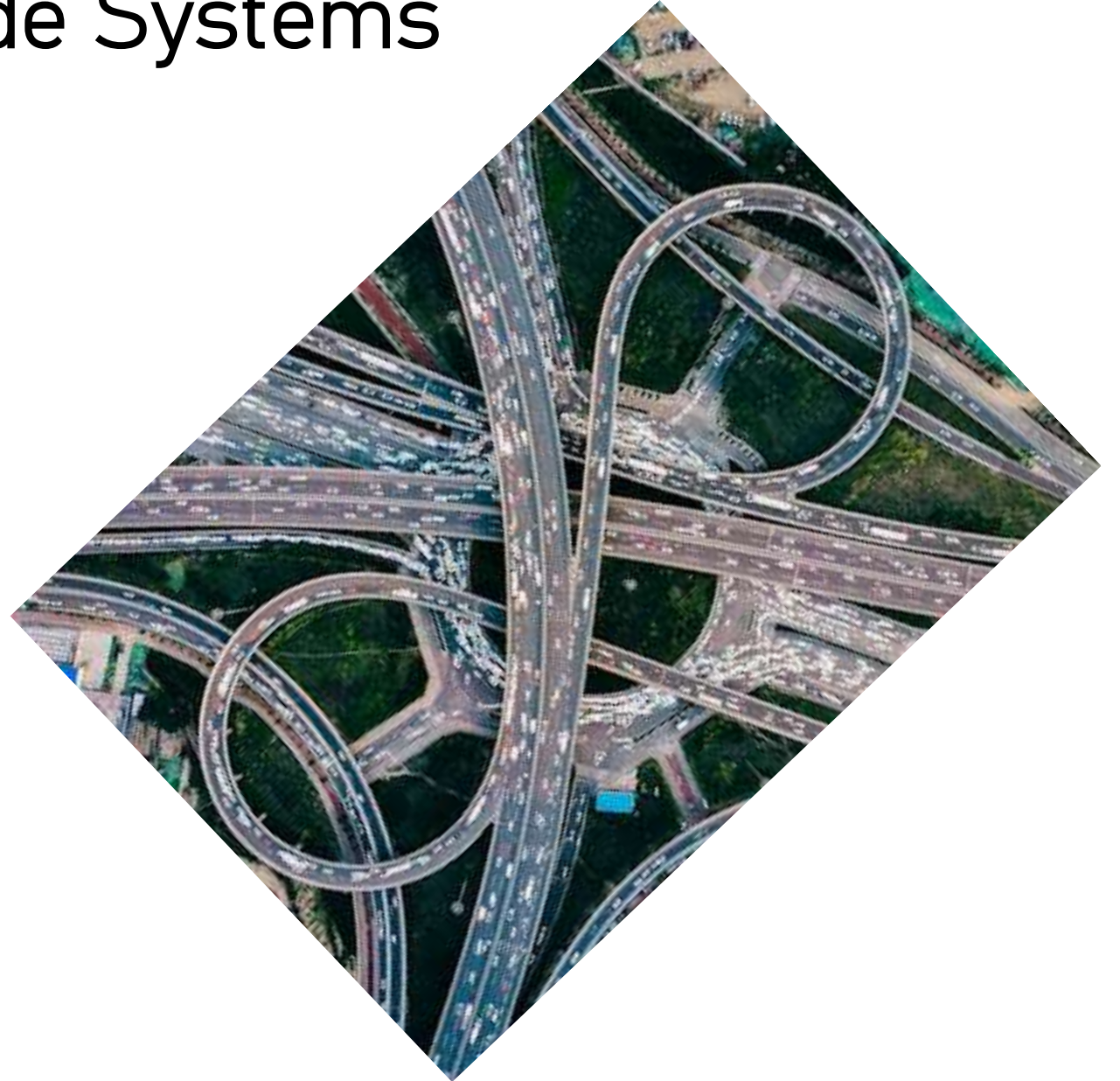
- General Terms
 - Communication is fast and broad
- Specific Terms
 - Necessary for detail
 - Risks fragmentation
- We need layers of vocabulary
 - General (e.g., “MMR”)
 - Specific (e.g., “MMR, high dose, with adjuvant, from GSK, 10-pack”)

Vaccination Code Systems

CVX, MVX, NDC, SNOMED, LOINC, ICD, CPT

Commonly Vaccine Code Systems

- SNOMED-CT
- ICD-11
- ATC
- United States
 - CVX
 - MVX
 - NDC
- Canada
 - CVC
- NUVA



What is SNOMED CT?

SNOMED CT is a system of clinical codes that permit documentation of health information in a structured and standardized manner.

- A complete and detailed code system that covers diseases, procedures, symptoms, vaccines, and more
- Each SNOMED code represents a unique concept, with a specific clinical meaning
- In practice, always use a subset
 - Never use all of SNOMED, but subsets of values for specific reasons
 - For example: subset of all vaccine codes

SNOMED CT in Context

Where is SNOMED used?

- Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems
 - Standardized documentation
- Public Health information systems
 - Interoperability and tracking
- DHIS2
 - Classification and reporting clinical data



SNOMED-CT

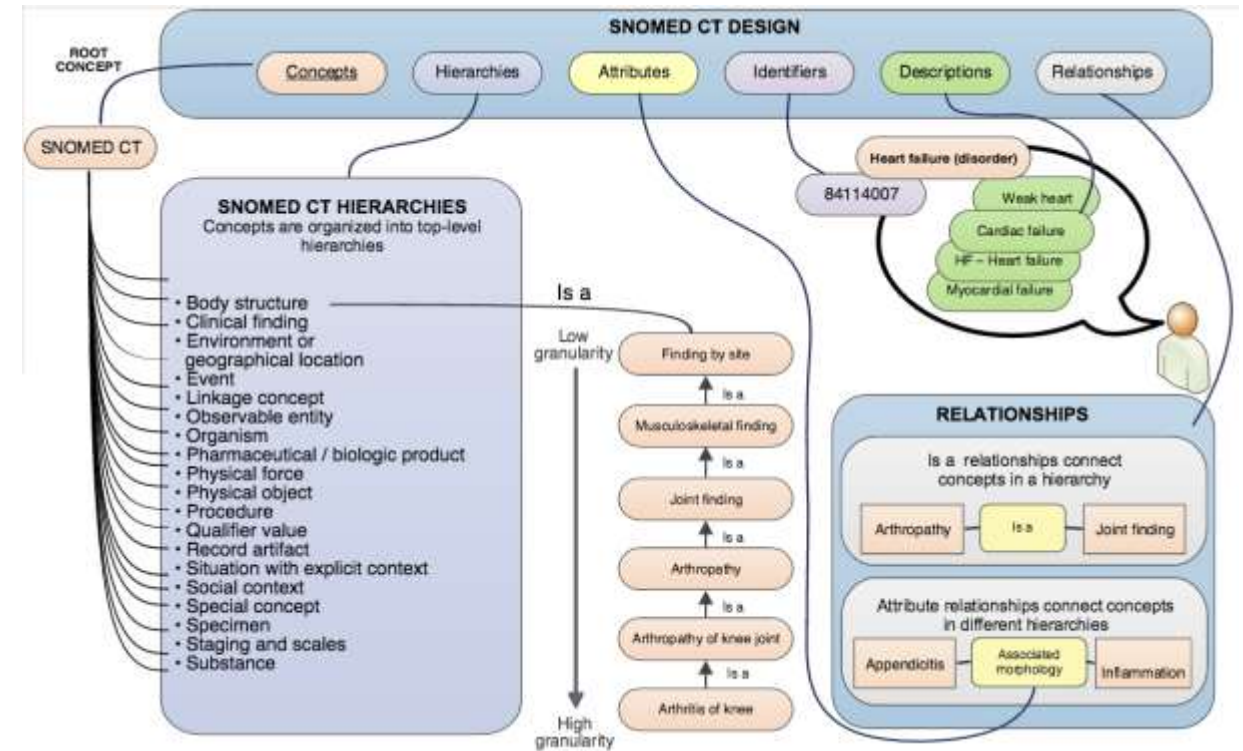
- Objective

Translate notes, clinical concepts into codified values
- Structure

Codes are organized into hierarchies from generic to specific concepts
- Licensing

In general, it requires a license to use, some countries have their own codes for vaccines
- Community Set

Includes generic vaccine concepts



Vocabulary – LOINC

- Logical Observation Identifier Names and Codes
 - A universal code system for test, measurements, and observations
 - Created by Regenstrief Institute
 - <http://loinc.org/>
 - Free to use
- Used in
 - HL7 v2
 - HL7 v3
 - HL7 FHIR



ICD-11: International Classification of Diseases

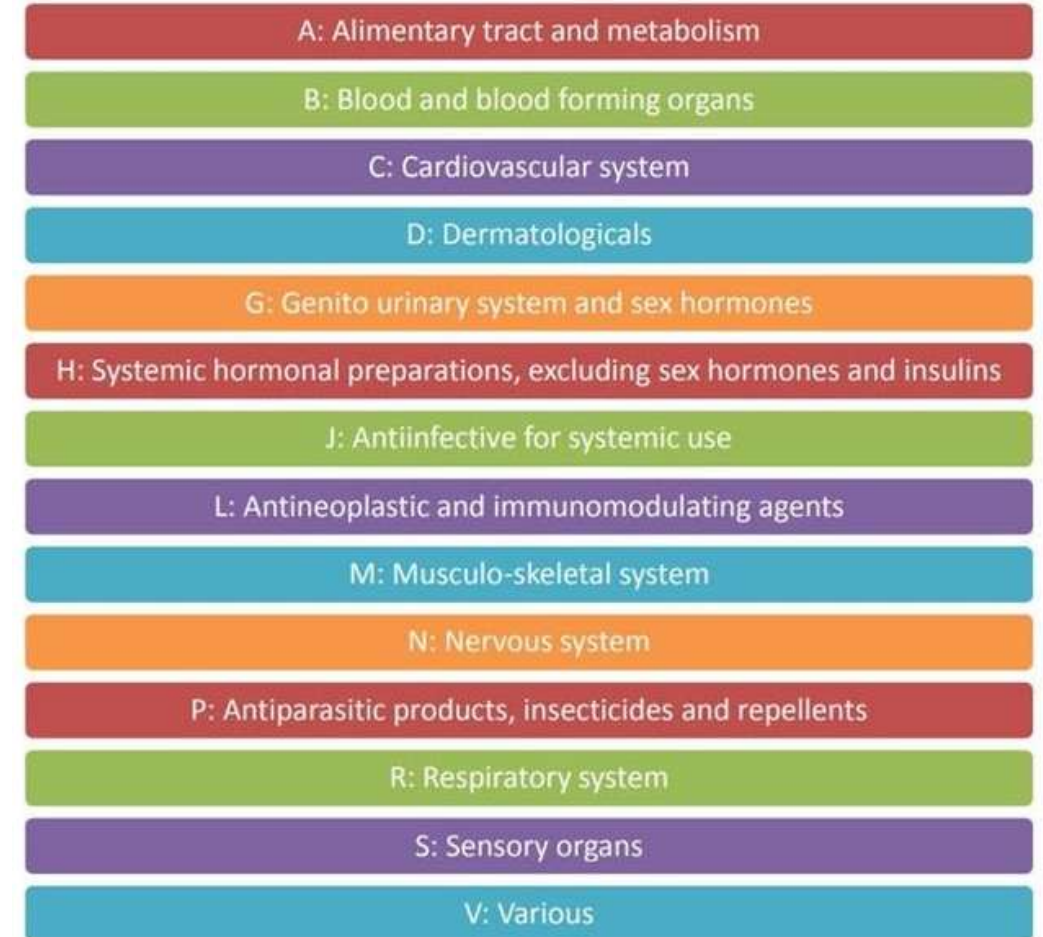
- Maintained by
World Health Organization
- Purpose
Describe diagnostic health information
Vaccinations
Contains generic codes to record events
related to vaccinations

XM11V3

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 - ▷ XM8BU8 Typhoid vaccines

Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC)

- Maintained by
World Health Organization (WHO)
- Purpose
Classify groups of products with similar characteristics
- Focus
Does not describe specific products, but rather classes of products



C -----Cardiovascular system
C08-----Calcium channel blockers
C08D-----Selective calcium channel blockers with direct cardiac effects
C08DA-----Phenylalkylamine derivatives
C08DA01-----Verapamil

United States: CVX, MVX, NDC

- CVX – Vaccination
 - Describes vaccines as part of vaccination history
 - Includes generic and specific codes
 - Used also outside the U.S. in various standards
- MVX – Manufacturer
- NDC – National Drug Code
 - Identifies products and specific vaccines
 - Used to support inventory functions
- CPT – Current Procedural Terminology
 - American Medical Association (AMA)



Immunization Information Systems (IIS)

Code Sets

CVX

CVX Mapped to Vaccine Groups

CVX Mapped to VIS

MVX

Product Name Mapped to CVX/MVX

NDC Crosswalk Tables

CPT Mapped to CVX

VIS Barcode Lookup Table

VIS URL Table

Fall Season Respiratory Vaccine Codes

Contact IIS

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE,
Building 24
Mailstop A-19
Atlanta, GA 30333

iisinfo@cdc.gov

Related Links

IIS: Current HL7 Standard Code Set CVX -- Vaccines Administered

Email Updates

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The CDC's National Center of Immunization and Respiratory Diseases ([NCIRD](#)) develop administered) code set. The table below has the most up to date values. It includes be available in the US. CVX codes for inactive vaccines allow transmission of historical in (manufacturer) code is paired with a CVX (vaccine administered) code, the specific tra These codes should be used for immunization messages using either HL7 Version 2.3 the CVX code set for certification can be found on the [archive page](#).

The Status column indicates if the vaccine is currently available in the United States.

- **Active:** A currently available administrable vaccine
- **Inactive:** An administrable vaccine formulation that is no longer available for pati historical patient records.
OR A historical record of a vaccine administered where the exact formul
- **Pending:** A vaccine that is expected to become active in the future
- **Non-US:** A vaccine that available outside the US only
- **Never Active:** A vaccine that was never available and is not in the pipeline of nev

The Last Updated column indicates the last time this particular vaccine code was upd

Questions regarding this table should be directed to the [IIS Technical Assistance Team](#)

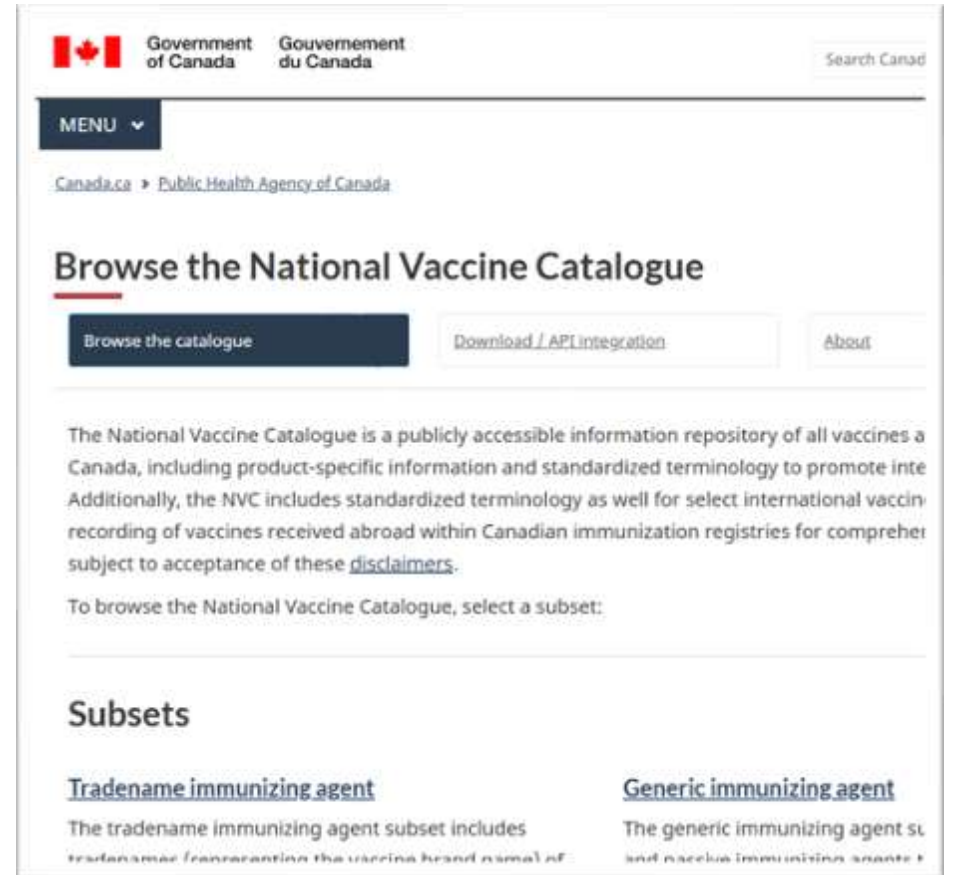
Available Printable versions: [Excel format](#) [OK](#)

Sort Table by Column: Simply click on the column heading to sort the table according

Short Description	Full Vaccine name	CVX Code	Vaccine Status	Last Updated Date
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adenovirus, type 4	adenovirus vaccine, type 4, live, oral	54	Inactive	5/28/2010

Canadian Vaccine Catalogue: CVC

- CVC
 - Code for vaccinations
- Strength
 - Very detailed and mature
- Use
 - Optimized for the Canadian health system



NUVA: Unified Nomenclature for Vaccines

- Purpose
 - Represent all vaccine concepts
 - Support mapping between NUVA and other code systems
- International Collaboration
 - By working with multiple code systems, NUVA supports global interoperability
- Goal
 - Simplify and standardize the use of vaccine codes in different contexts

NUVA: Unified Nomenclature for Vaccines

- What does it do?
 - Documents complete vaccination histories
 - For any vaccination, given in any part of the world, at any time in the past
 - Up to 120 years ago, in any country, to any person
 - The objective is to establish if the patient is protected
 - Support patient personally
 - Support public health monitoring generally
- What does it not do?
 - Directly support manufacturing, market authorization, distribution, payment, or tracking ingredients
- What is a valence?
 - Describes the functions that a vaccine performs to protect patient
 - Key to mapping NUVA terms to other code systems

NUVA: Unified Nomenclature for Vaccines

NUVA

Home

Explore

Vaccines

Valences

Diseases

Mapping tool

Vaccines

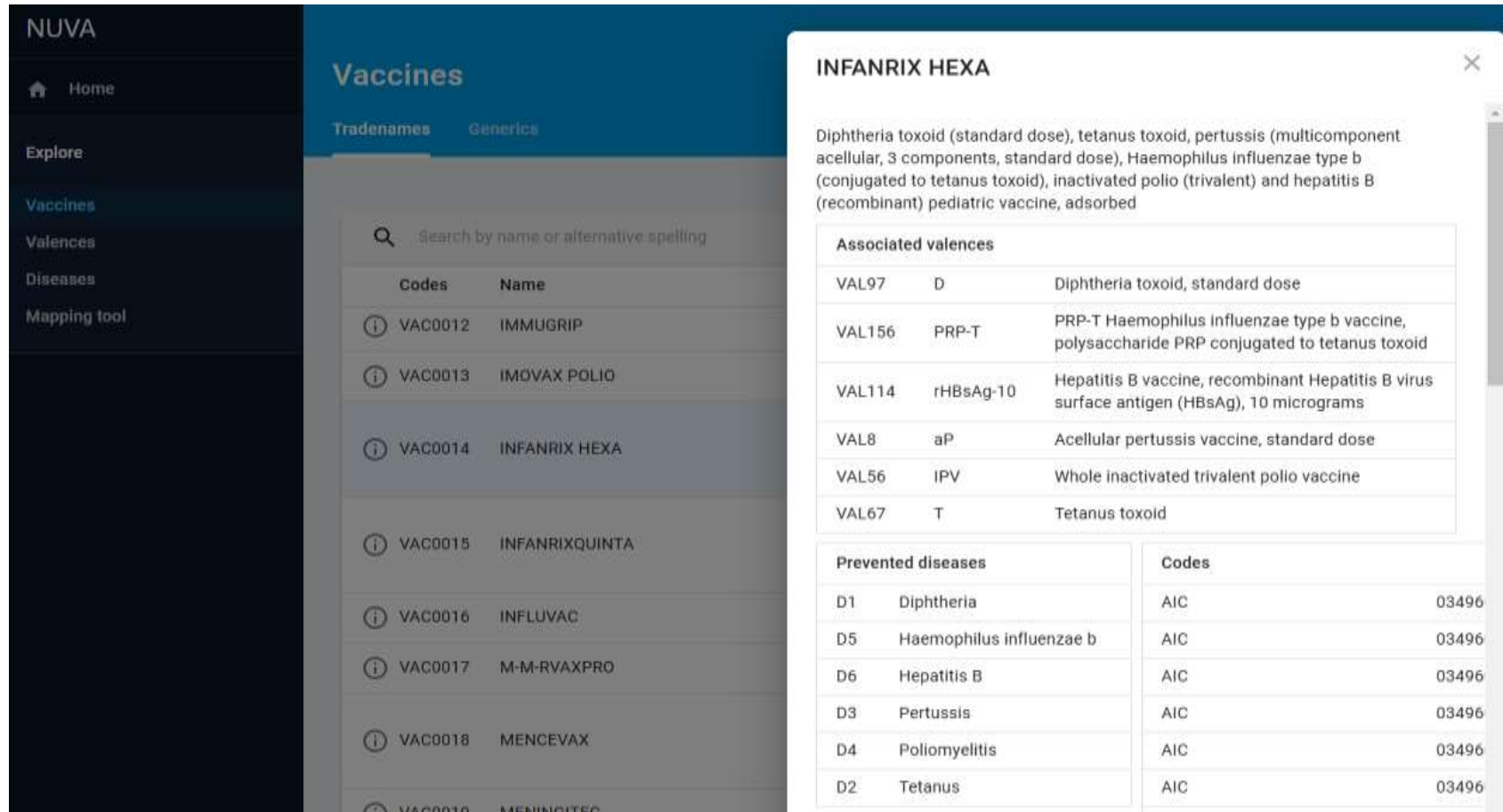
TradenamesGenerics

Language
EN

Search by name or alternative spelling

Codes	Name	Diseases	Valences
VAC0001	ACT-HIB	Haemophilus influenzae b	PRP-T
VAC0002	AGRIPPAL	Influenza	Inf-SUnd3
VAC0003	AVAXIM 160 U	Hepatitis A	HepA-mv-ADU
VAC0004	D.T. POLIO MERIEUX	Diphtheria Poliomyelitis Tetanus	DIPV T

NUVA: Unified Nomenclature for Vaccines



The screenshot displays the NUVA web application interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with navigation links: Home, Explore, Vaccines (highlighted), Valences, Diseases, and Mapping tool. The main content area is titled 'Vaccines' and has tabs for 'Tradenames' and 'Generics'. A search bar is present with the placeholder text 'Search by name or alternative spelling'. Below the search bar is a list of vaccines, each with an information icon, a code, and a name. The vaccine 'INFANRIX HEXA' (VAC0014) is selected, and a detailed modal window is open for it. The modal window contains a description of the vaccine, a table of associated valences, and a table of prevented diseases with their corresponding codes.

NUVA

Home

Explore

Vaccines

Valences

Diseases

Mapping tool

Vaccines

Tradenames Generics

Search by name or alternative spelling

Codes	Name
VAC0012	IMMUGRIP
VAC0013	IMOVAX POLIO
VAC0014	INFANRIX HEXA
VAC0015	INFANRIXQUINTA
VAC0016	INFLUVAC
VAC0017	M-M-RVAXPRO
VAC0018	MENCEVAX
VAC0019	MENINGITEC

INFANRIX HEXA

Diphtheria toxoid (standard dose), tetanus toxoid, pertussis (multicomponent acellular, 3 components, standard dose), Haemophilus influenzae type b (conjugated to tetanus toxoid), inactivated polio (trivalent) and hepatitis B (recombinant) pediatric vaccine, adsorbed

Associated valences		
VAL97	D	Diphtheria toxoid, standard dose
VAL156	PRP-T	PRP-T Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine, polysaccharide PRP conjugated to tetanus toxoid
VAL114	rHBsAg-10	Hepatitis B vaccine, recombinant Hepatitis B virus surface antigen (HBsAg), 10 micrograms
VAL8	aP	Acellular pertussis vaccine, standard dose
VAL56	IPV	Whole inactivated trivalent polio vaccine
VAL67	T	Tetanus toxoid

Prevented diseases		Codes	
D1	Diphtheria	AIC	03496
D5	Haemophilus influenzae b	AIC	03496
D6	Hepatitis B	AIC	03496
D3	Pertussis	AIC	03496
D4	Poliomyelitis	AIC	03496
D2	Tetanus	AIC	03496

NUVA: Unified Nomenclature for Vaccines

Mapping Tool

Vaccine name
CELVAPAN

or pick a code

Code system Code

	Code	Name	Diseases	Valences
ⓘ	VAC0107	CELVAPAN	Influenza	Inf-pdm09

Equivalent Generalized Specialized

ⓘ These are the vaccine with exactly the same valences as the original vaccine.

	Code	Name	Valences
ⓘ	VAC0108	PANDEMRIX	Inf-pdm09
ⓘ	VAC0104	HUMENZA	Inf-pdm09
ⓘ	VAC0124	FOCETRIA (multidose)	Inf-pdm09

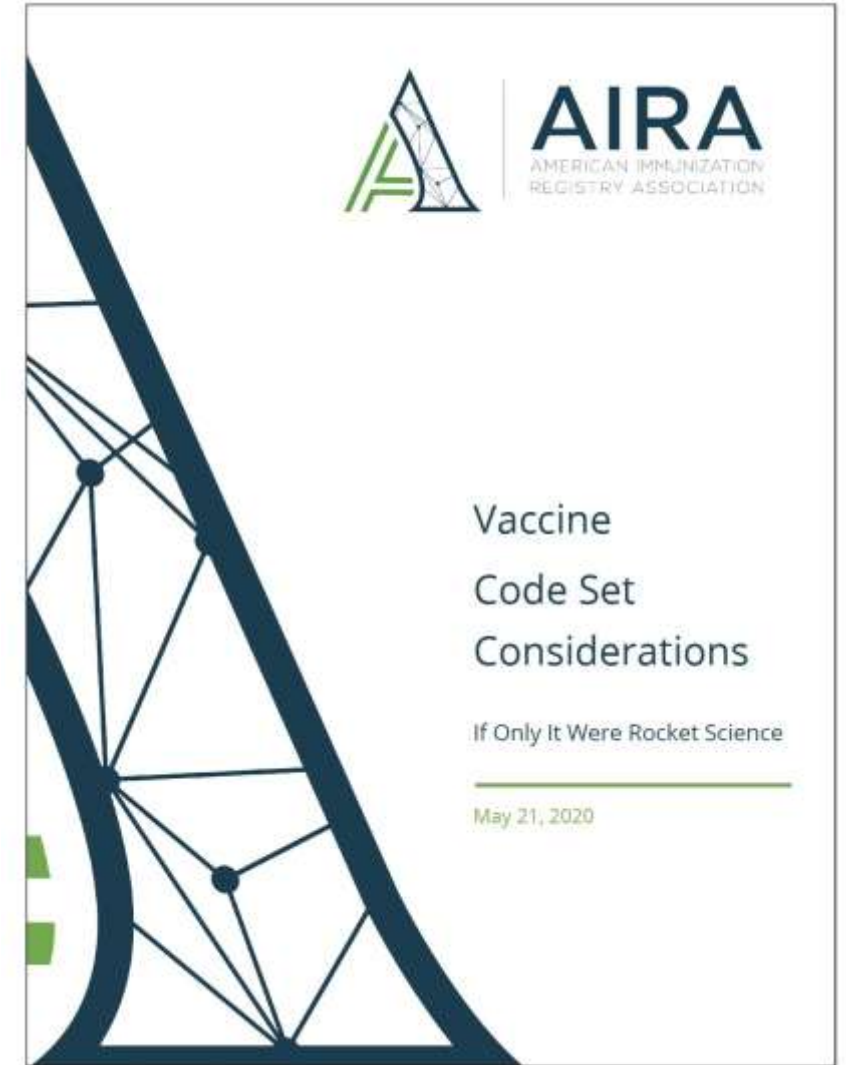
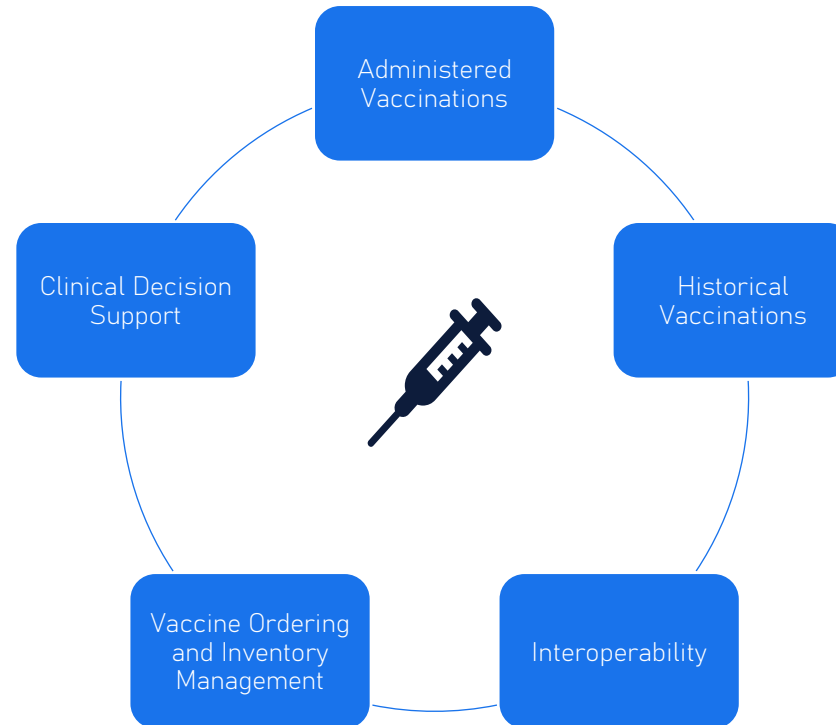
Code system
CVX

Conclusion

- Codes are critical
- There are many vaccine code systems in use
- We are creating IVC to help navigate these systems and help all of our projects
- NUVA is a resource that you can use today

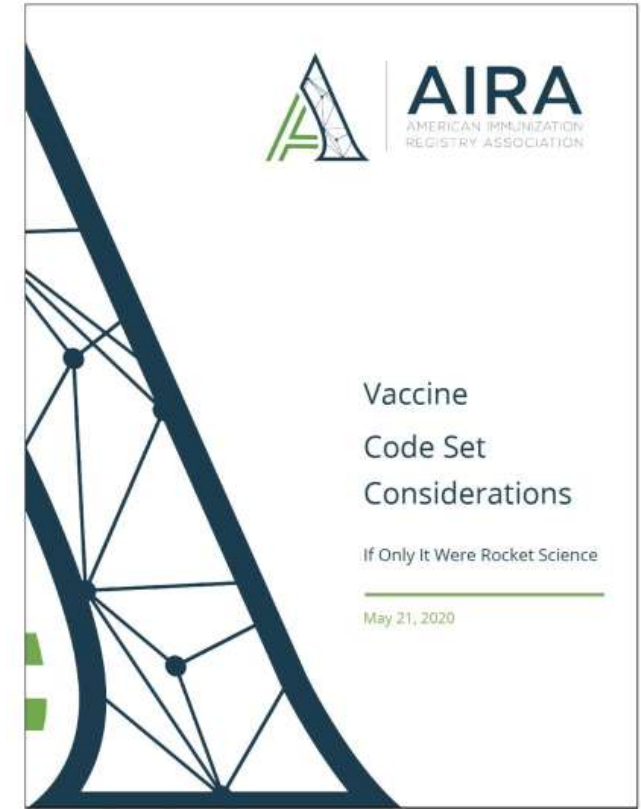
Vocabulary Governance & Distribution Challenges

Vaccine Code Set Considerations

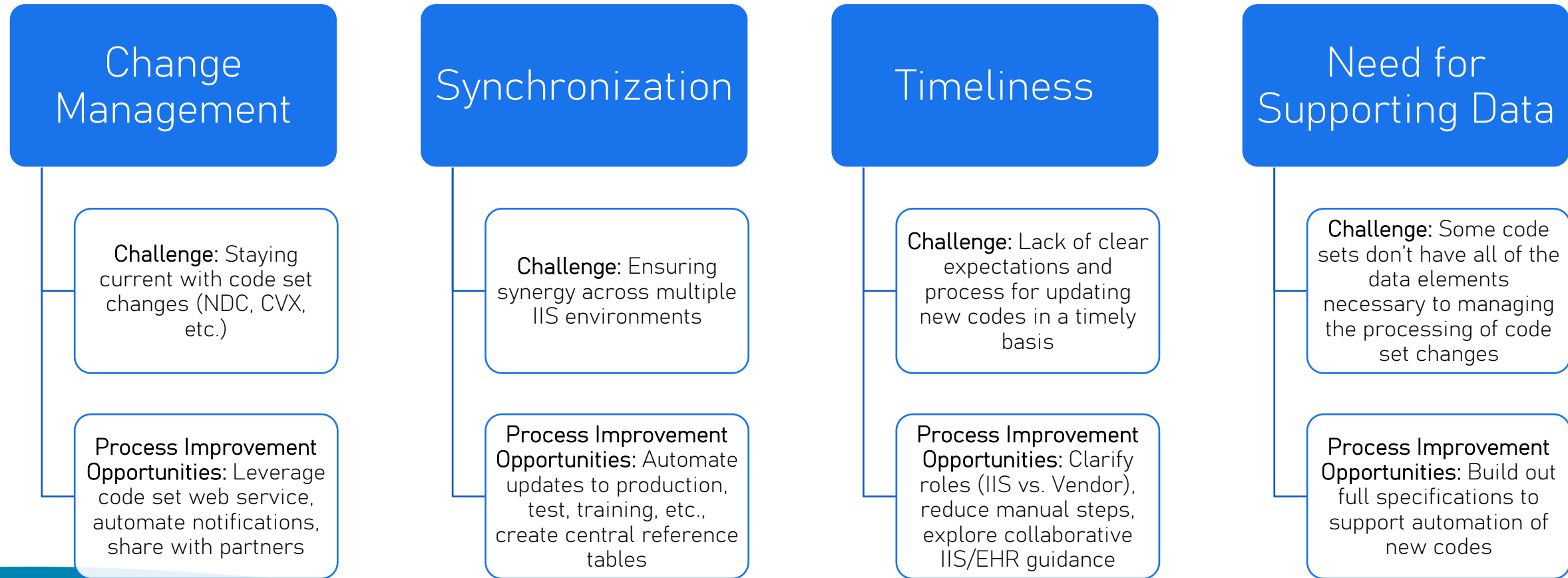


Code Set Management Challenges

1. Change Management
 - Maintaining awareness of code set changes as they are published and the process for implementing those changes
2. Synchronization
 - Keeping multiple systems and environments current with updates
3. Timeliness of Implementation
 - Identifying processes and expectations for timely code set updates across IIS and EHRs
4. The need for Supporting Data/Specifications
 - Identifying additional data points and interpretation needed to augment and more fully leverage vaccine code set data



Challenges



Updating Code Sets

- Why does it take time to update code sets in IIS and EHRs?
- While creating test cases for Measurement & Improvement we had an *aha moment*!



Measurement & Improvement

- Creating test cases for changes from 03/18/2019 until 02/12/2020
 - Challenge: Translating human language into operational expectations
 - Most of the contextual information is expressed for a human to understand
 - Requires a vaccination expert to read, understand and implement
 - Highlighted 14 changes that needed further clarification
 - Generated 32 unique questions under these changes
 - A vaccination expert should be able to provide a workable answer to these questions
 - But these experts might not come to the same answer
 - Will show you two basic examples:
 - Two manufacturers merged
 - NDC's retired

Example Change: NDC Retired

02/12/2020: NDC Codes Retired: The following NDC codes have been retired from the FDA files received.

...

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...

What does retired mean? How would this appear in operation?

What should an IIS do when they receive "retired" codes:

- Should they be accepted and stored?
- Should they ignore them?
- Should they send back a warning or error?

When should this retirement take affect:

- As of the announcement date?
- As of the OuterEndDate/UseUnitEndDate?
- What if these dates are not specified?
- After these dates might the vaccine still be in circulation with these NDCs?

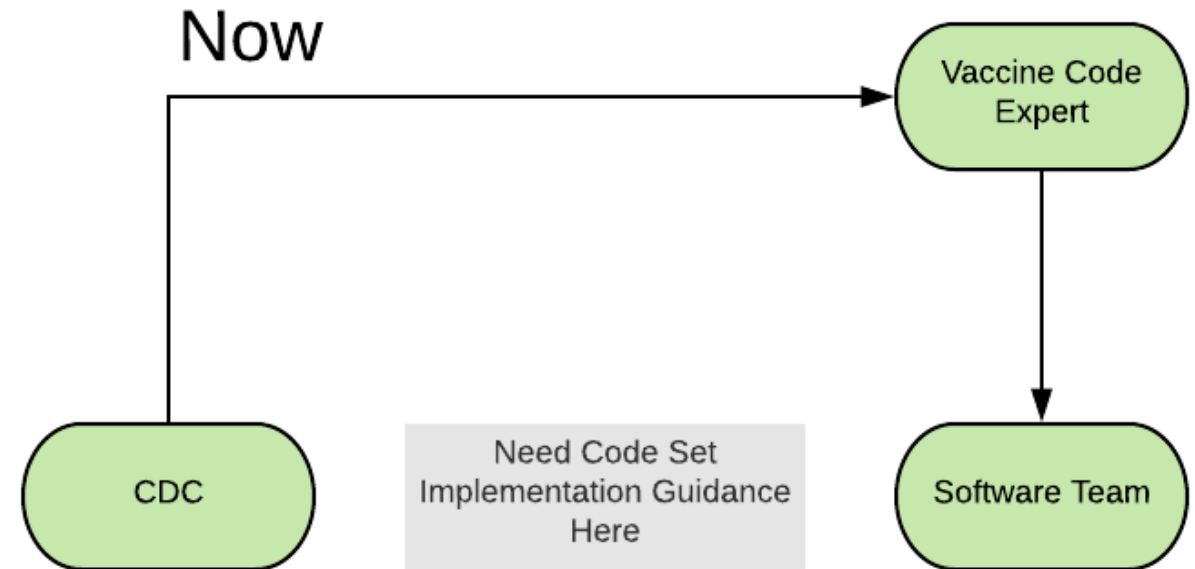
Can these codes still be used to report older data?
Can IIS continue to store older data with these codes?
Is it okay for IIS to report these older codes out for old data?

What is Needed in the U.S.

- Code set project needs the same resources:
 - Need standard definitions and operations
 - Need additional supporting data
 - Need more start and end dates, and connect those to specific requirements
 - Need to code information from human language into a computable resource
 - Test cases that can be used to verify support for changes:
 - IIS HL7 test cases
 - EHR behavior test cases
- Keep up-to-date with every change to the code set

What is Needed in the U.S.

- Where are the roadblocks?
 - Downloading codes
 - Not too hard today
 - Implementation by expert
 - Experts are busy
 - Not all teams have them
- Need guidance that can bridge the gap



How Could NUVA Help?

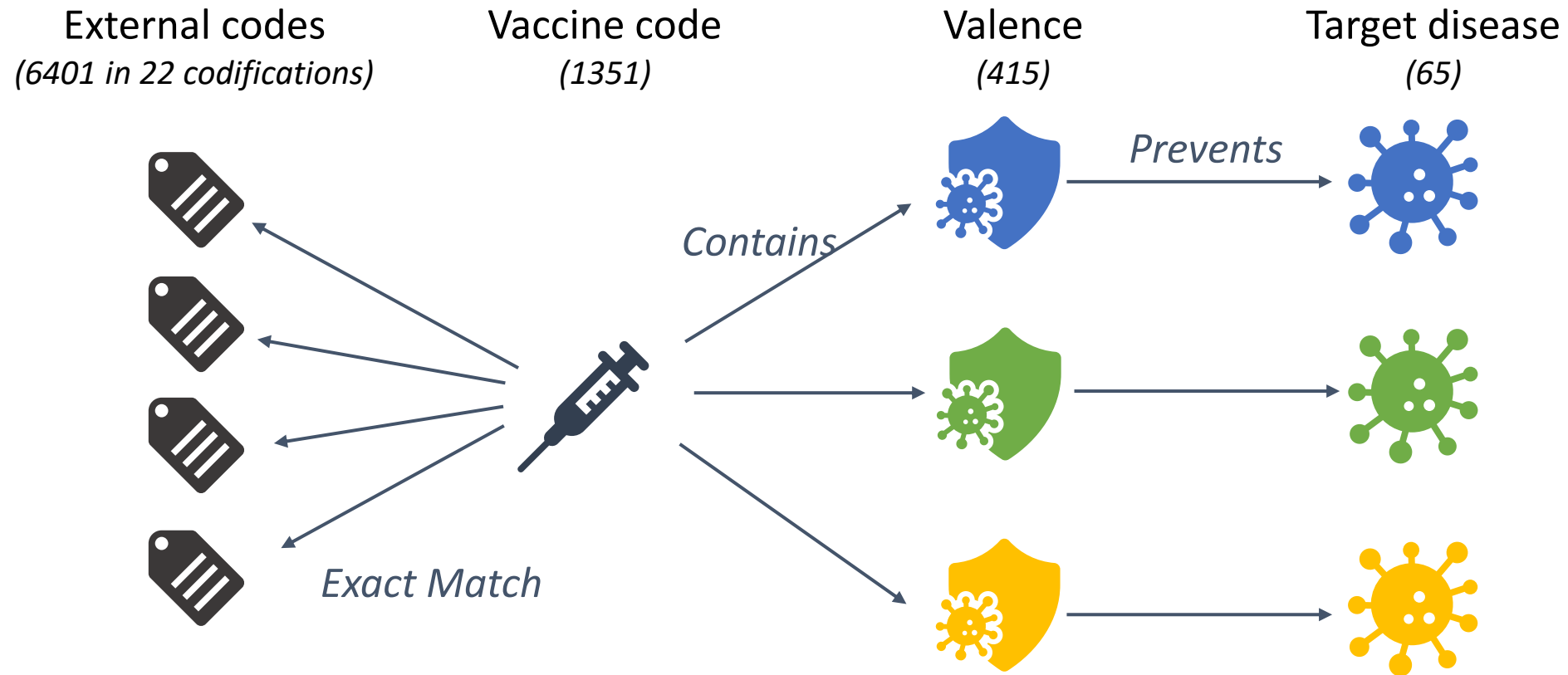
- Bridging Human Concepts and Machine Reasoning
 - Consolidates vaccine concepts across systems and countries
 - Provides a structured model using RDF (linked data)
 - Makes relationships computable with SPARQL
 - Enables precise mapping, discovery, and validation of vaccine data

Practical use of the NUVA

TOOLS AND RESOURCES



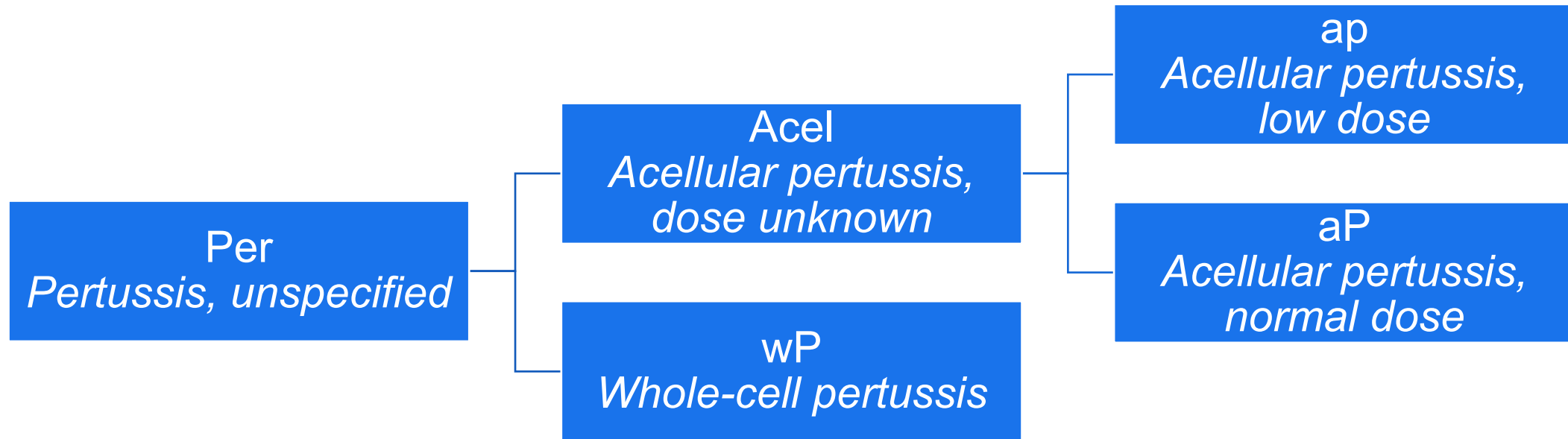
NUVA data model



Counted on April 15th, 2025

Hierarchical representation of valences

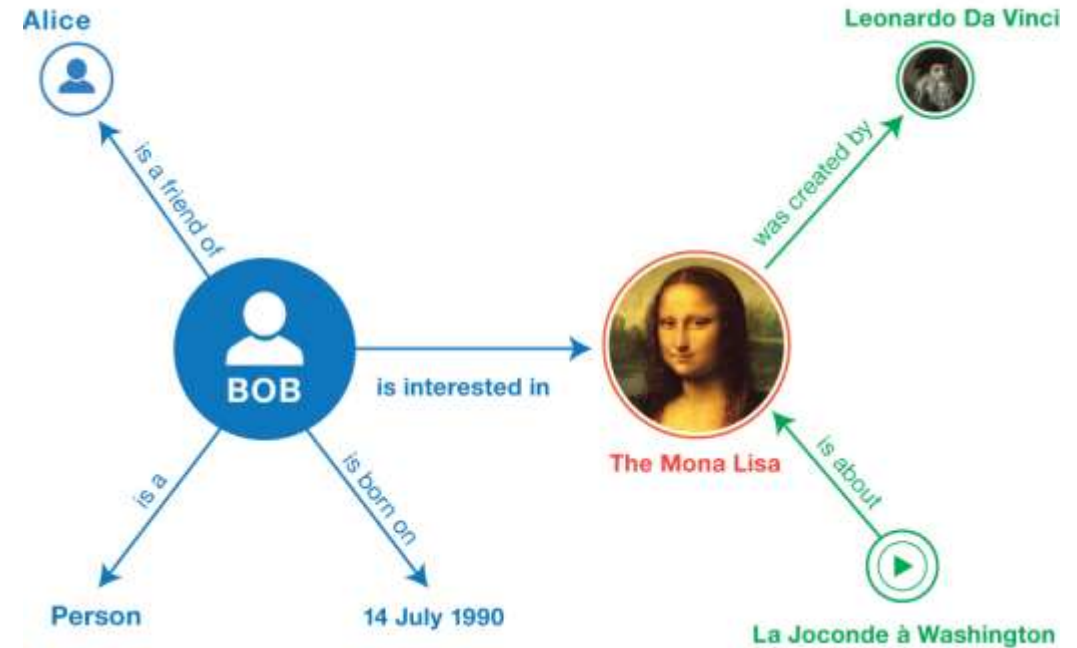
Allows to describe vaccines that are not fully identified.
Illustrated here with the case of pertussis valences



Resource Description Framework (RDF)

<https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf11-primer/>

- A standard model for representing information
- Not a messaging format like HL7 or FHIR
- Data model for describing relationships
- Uses triples
 - Subject – Predicate – Object
- Usually each is a URI (like a website address)
 - Everything is unambiguous and linkable across systems



EXAMPLE 1: Sample triples (informal)

```
<Bob> <is a> <person>.  
<Bob> <is a friend of> <Alice>.  
<Bob> <is born on> <the 4th of July 1990>.  
<Bob> <is interested in> <the Mona Lisa>.  
<the Mona Lisa> <was created by> <Leonardo da Vinci>.  
<the video 'La Joconde à Washington'> <is about> <the Mona Lisa>
```

Where You'll Encounter RDF

- NUVA
- SNOMED CT (internally modeled with RDF)
- LOINC (Regenstrief distributes an RDF version)
- Wikidata / WikipediaWHO vocabularies (emerging)
- FHIR supports RDF as one of its serialization formats

The RDF representation

- Used to represent knowledge as triples: Subject Predicate Object
- Subjects and Predicates are URLs, Objects can be URLs or Literal values.
- URLs can be shortened with prefixes.

The example below expresses that VAC1397 (subject) contains valence (predicate) VAL051 (object)

PREFIX nuva: <http://ivci.org/NUVA/>

PREFIX nuvs: <http://ivci.org/NUVA/nuvs#>

nuva:VAC1397 nuvs:containsValence: nuva:VAL051

RDF triples can be represented with various formats: JSON, XML, Triples, Turtle, etc.

Turtle: A Friendly Way to Write RDF Triples

- TURTLE: Terse RDF Triple Language
- Preferred for readability

Subject	Predicate	Object (Value)
nuva:VAC1397	rdfs:label	"PANFLU"
nuva:VAC1397	nuvs:containsValence	nuva:VAL051
nuva:VAC1397	nuvs:isAbstract	false
nuva:VAC1397	dcterms:created	"2025-04-08"^^xsd:date
nuva:VAC1397	rdfs:comment	"Influenza A(H5N1) vaccine..."@en
nuva:VAC1397	rdfs:subClassOf	nuva:Vaccine
nuva:VAC1397	skos:notation	"VAC1397"



```
nuva:VAC1397:  
  rdfs:label "PANFLU" ;  
  nuvs:containsValence nuva:VAL051 ;  
  nuvs:isAbstract false ;  
  dcterms:created "2025-04-08"^^xsd:date ;  
  dcterms:modified "2025-04-08"^^xsd:date ;  
  rdfs:comment "Influenza A(H5N1) vaccine"  
  rdfs:subClassOf nuva:Vaccine ;  
  skos:notation "VAC1397"
```

The RDF vocabularies

Some sets of terms, identified with a given URL/prefix, have a commonly accepted meaning.

We use:

- `rdfs`, that allows to characterize the subject as a class with attributes (a label, parents)
- `skos`, that defines terms regarding terminologies and ontologies
- `dcterms`, that defines terms regarding publications and releases

Complemented with a set of our own, `nuvs`, for NUVA specific relationships.

```
nuva:VAC1397:  
  rdfs:label "PANFLU" ;  
  nuvs:containsValence nuva:VAL051 ;  
  nuvs:isAbstract false ;  
  dcterms:created "2025-04-08"^^xsd:date ;  
  dcterms:modified "2025-04-08"^^xsd:date ;  
  rdfs:comment "Influenza A(H5N1) vaccine (fragmented virion, inactivated, adjuvanted)"@en ;  
  rdfs:subClassOf nuva:Vaccine ;  
  skos:notation "VAC1397"
```

What is SPARQL?

- Query language for RDF
 - Just like SQL is a query language for relational databases
 - But instead of tables with rows and columns, queries a graph of triples (subject-predicate-object)

Examples

SQL (Structured Query Language)

“Give me all patients whose vaccine is 'Polio'.”

```
sql

SELECT patient_id
FROM vaccinations
WHERE vaccine_name = 'Polio';
```

You need to know:

- The table name (vaccinations)
- The column name (vaccine_name)

SPARQL (SPARQL Protocol and RDF Query Language)

“Find all vaccines that prevent smallpox.”

```
sparql

SELECT ?vac ?v1 WHERE {
  ?dis rdfs:label "Smallpox"@en .
  ?val nuvs:prevents ?dis .
  ?vac nuvs:containsValence ?val .
  ?vac rdfs:label ?v1 .
}
```

You're querying a **web of facts** like:

- Vaccine A contains valence B
- Valence B prevents disease C
- Vaccine A has a label

You don't need to know a “table” — you just follow the **relationships** in the RDF graph.

The SPARQL query language

Allow to query from an RDF graph (set of triples) by expressing constraints on variables, with various constructs to filter further, aggregate results.

A SPARQL engine preloaded with NUVA is available at <https://graph.ivci.org/sparql>, with a set of example queries.

```
# Retrieve all vaccines having a valence against smallpox
```

```
SELECT ?vac ?vl WHERE {  
  ?dis rdfs:subClassOf nuva:Disease .  
  ?dis rdfs:label "Smallpox-Monkeypox"@en .  
  ?vac rdfs:subClassOf nuva:Vaccine .  
  ?vac rdfs:label ?vl FILTER(lang(?vl)='en' || lang(?vl)='').  
  ?vac nuvs:containsValence ?val .  
  ?val nuvs:prevents ?dis  
}
```

Using graph.ivci.org

SPARQL queries

Visual graph

SPARQL Query & Update

Anonymous X Q-External codes with sev... X unnamed X Q-Valences with same label X Q-Label starting with spac... X Q-One generic vaccine per... X Q-Valences with same sha...

Vaccines against smallpox X

```
1 # All vaccines against smallpox
2 PREFIX rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>
3 PREFIX skos: <http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#>
4 PREFIX nuva: <http://ivci.org/NUVA/>
5 PREFIX nuvs: <http://ivci.org/NUVA/nuvs#>
6 SELECT ?vac ?vl WHERE {
7   ?dis rdfs:subClassOf nuva:Disease .
8   ?dis rdfs:label "Smallpox-Mockvax" @en .
9   ?vac rdfs:subClassOf nuva:Vaccine .
10  ?vac rdfs:label ?vl FILTER(Lang(?vl)="en" || Lang(?vl)="").
11  ?vac nuva:containsValence ?vl .
12  ?vac nuvs:presentAs ?dis .
13 }
```

Table Raw response Pivot Table Google Chart

Filter query results Compact view Hide row numbers

Showing results from 0 to 20 of 20. Query took 0.2s, minutes ago.

	vac	vl
1	nuva:VAC0219	"BRVAX"
2	nuva:VAC0443	"SEVAC VAXIE"
3	nuva:VAC0274	"LANDY VAXINE"
4	nuva:VAC1122	"1st generation live smallpox vaccine"
5	nuva:VAC0999	"WETVAX APDV"
6	nuva:VAC1000	"VACV VACCINIA VIRUS LISTER ELST"
7	nuva:VAC0984	"VACCING ANTIVAKOLOG IB"



Browsing

	subject	predicate	object	context
1	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	nuva:containsValence	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAL051	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit
2	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	nuvs:isAbstract	"false""vac:code"	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit
3	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	dot:created	"2025-04-08""modified"	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit
4	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	dot:modified	"2025-04-08""modified"	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit
5	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	rdfs:type	owl:Class	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit
6	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	rdfs:comment	"Influenza A(H5N1) vaccine (fragmented virion, inactivated, adjuvanted)"@en	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit
7	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	rdfs:comment	"Vaccin contre la grippe A(H5N1) (virion fragmenté, inactivé, avec adjuvant)"@fr	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit
8	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	rdfs:label	"PANFLU"	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit
9	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	rdfs:subClassOf	http://ivci.org/NUVA/Vaccine	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit
10	http://ivci.org/NUVA/VAC1397	skos:notation	"VAC1397"	http://www.ontotext.com/explicit

Online NUVA contents: ivci.org/nuva

- [nuva_ivci.rdf](#): full NUVA graph, RDF format
- [nuva_core.ttl](#): minimal graph with Vaccines, Valences and Diseases, in English only, Turtle format
- [nuva_core.csv](#): only the list of vaccines, with label and comment in English, CSV format
- [nuva_lang_xxx.ttl](#): Additional triples to add language xxx, Turtle format
- [nuva_refcode_xxx.ttl](#): Additional triples to add external code xxx, Turtle format
- [nuva_refcode_xxx.csv](#): Tabular mapping of external code xxx with NUVA, CSV format
- [history.html](#), [history.json](#): History of NUVA releases
- [version](#): currently exposed version of NUVA

Using NUVA in Python

A package nuva-util can be installed with command : `pip install nuva-utils`

It exposes functions to:

- Get the current version
- Download the core graph from <https://ivci.org/nuva>
- Add external codes or languages to a graph
- Obtain the list of vaccines and their attributes
- Obtain a translation table from a language to another
- Determine the optimal mappings between an external code system and NUVA

See <https://ivci.org/doku/doku.php?id=ivci:nuva-utils> for details and an example.

Demonstration of a Python utility to compute metrics on a code system

Resources for developers

Wrappers are available for 6 programming languages:

- Ruby
- TypeScript/JavaScript
- Java
- C#
- Python
- PHP

They:

- Are available from common package managers (NPM, Ruby Gems, PyPI, Maven, NuGet, Composer)
- Expose the NUVA concepts as language specific constructs
- Simplify the use of data, fetching it from a public CDN
- Offer a consistent API across all languages

Their documentation is available at <https://docs.nuva.mesvaccins.net/>