

## Patient Safety Metadata

---

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Principal Investigator:</b> | Penoza, Chuck, M.B.A.                                |
| <b>Organization:</b>           | Data Consulting Group                                |
| <b>Contract Number:</b>        | 290-08-10005M  |
| <b>Project Period:</b>         | January 2008 – December 2010, Completion of Contract |
| <b>AHRQ Funding Amount:</b>    | \$1,012,814  |
| <b>Summary Status as of:</b>   | December 2010  |

---

**Target Population:** Not Applicable

**Summary:** A common data classification registry streamlines the processes associated with information exchange, both within the Federal Government and between the Government and external stakeholders. Streamlined processes allow for the identification of and concentration on key improvement areas, and produce clearly identified, measurable results. The United States Health Information Knowledgebase (USHIK) is a metadata registry of health care-related data standards. This registry, which meets the requirements of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission, has been a collaborative effort among several health information organizations and Federal agencies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department of Defense Military Health System, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the National Cancer Institute. These agencies recognize the need to maintain an Internet-based registry of data standards to be maintained long term. USHIK supports metadata registry for these several health care data initiatives and for 10 years has provided a single axis of continuity for various approved standards, elements, code sets, references, and additional artifacts at the Federal level. The USHIK registry supports these initiatives and participating Federal Government health care agencies by cataloging and providing a platform for maintaining and harmonizing standardized, approved data artifacts across multiple organizations, agencies, and entities.

The USHIK project complies with the e-Government Act of 2002 and the President's Management Agenda to use Internet-based information technology to enhance access to Government information and resources. As reusable components are identified and agencies begin to collaborate, USHIK is the single point of continuity among initiatives, agencies, and projects. AHRQ is responsible for the metadata repository, and USHIK will provide the mechanism for storing, maintaining, and sharing these metadata components.

USHIK project staff facilitated implementation and usage of these components and component-based architectures across the health enterprise. USHIK described the types of interactions and information exchanges that occur between the Federal health communities and various customers, constituencies, and business partners. USHIK has the capacity to categorize and display the Government's information along with specific information exchange requirements and content areas and can deconstruct those content areas into greater levels of detail, e.g., basic data components that are common to many health-related processes and activities. USHIK facilitates the sharing of information exchange requirements through standards-based, reusable, secure, portable, and interoperable technology standards. Project efforts will further establish commonly understood classifications for health data elements, identify duplicative data

resources, and enable information sharing among agencies. AHRQ oversaw the focused data efforts to ensure that all appropriate points of integration are identified.

**Project Objectives:**

- Maintain the metadata registry. **(Ongoing)**
- Support the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel. **(Ongoing)**
- Support AHRQ's Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (CQuIPS). **(Ongoing)**
- Provide support for external agencies. **(Ongoing)**

**2010 Activities:** The official release of the Common Formats USHIK portal occurred in April 2010. This allowed the USHIK community, including researchers, systems developers, policymakers, clinicians, and the general public, access to the Common Formats metadata in USHIK. The release of this portal included supporting functionality comprised of a custom interactive informational model that allows users to navigate the Common Formats data. This portal was continuously improved over the course of the year based on the requirements of the CQuIPS stakeholder. Multiple demonstrations were conducted during 2010 to communicate the availability and functionality of this portal.

Specific functionality implemented in support of the Common Formats portal in USHIK during 2010 included tools to load and update Common Formats data in USHIK, capability to export Common Formats metadata from USHIK in a variety of convenient formats, and supporting online functionality including help pages and a glossary customized for the Common Formats metadata. The AHRQ USHIK team continues to provide support to the CQuIPS team as their Patient Safety initiatives evolve.

**Impact and Findings:** The project has no findings to date.

---

**Strategic Goal:** Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to improve health care decisionmaking through the use of integrated data and knowledge management.

**Business Goal:** Implementation and Use