



**Canada Health Infoway**

# **HL7 Balloting and the Cross Paradigm Gender Harmony Implementation Guide**

Joanie Harper, Specialist, Standards  
Ron Parker, Chair, HL7 Canada Affiliate

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Respectful Dialogue
- Sex and Gender working group highlights
- Gender Harmony ballot overview
- HL7 Int'l Ballot process
- HL7 Canada Ballot review - commenting and timelines
- Next steps

# Welcome and Introductions

- Ron Parker

## Respectful Dialogue

- Express disagreement with ideas not personalities: attack the problem, not the person
- Share airtime: let everyone participate, even if you disagree with their point
- Yield the floor to others when they are speaking
- Stay on topic and connect to what others have said
- Understand and learn from each other
- Leave your “rank” at the door; we are all equal and unique
- Listen respectfully, especially when you disagree. Acknowledge you have heard others
- Look for common ground
- Don’t use charged language
- Identify and test assumptions
- Remember the English language is imprecise: many words have more than one meaning and some medical and standards professionals use some terms in specific ways (e.g., “observation”)

# Update from Sex and Gender Working Group

Kelly Davison

# Infoway Sex-Gender WG

- Purpose: to modernize gender, sex and sexual orientation information practices in Canada.
  - Current Co-Chairs: Karen Courtney, Kelly Davison and Francis Lau.
- Infoway supports as convener / collaborator / facilitator.
- Ongoing since 2019.
- Meeting held once per month on [fourth Tuesday](#).
- Finalized proposed [Action Plan](#) in early 2021. [Summary document](#) has been translated.
  - Seven aims, including terminology modernization, research and best practices.
- Co-participation in HL7 International Gender Harmony Project.
- Specified harmonized GSSO terminology requirements in June, 2021.
- Work on other Action Plan aims continues.
- GSSO Terminology Workstream established in late 2021.

# Gender Identity Concepts (SNOMED CT)

Gender identity (demographic history detail)

Gender identity finding (finding)

Identifies as male gender (finding)

Identifies as female gender (finding)

Identifies as nonbinary gender (finding)

Identifies as Indigenous gender (finding)

Identifies as Two-Spirit gender (finding)

Gender identity as a demographic variable.

# GSSO Terminology Workstream




This group was established in October of 2021 with the following primary objectives:

1. Support inclusive health care through the definition, specification and authoring of artefacts (i.e. concepts, subsets) as actions related to the realization the Action Plan.
2. Facilitate local, national, international and domain-specific reviews by governing bodies to socialize artefacts as pan-Canadian or international standards (i.e. governance).
3. Provide a forum for transdisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration on GSSO related standards that can be implemented nationally and internationally.
4. Advocate for structural and terminological changes that support equity for sex and gender minorities through inclusive primary (bedside care) and secondary (analytics and research) information practices.
5. Meetings on hold until SO model developed. Will consult HTC, SGWG, other communities as necessary.

## Warning: next slide contains potentially harmful content

- The next slide contains examples of terms and concepts that are active in the health terminology SNOMED CT.
- We understand that this content can be harmful.
- We don't want to harm you. Our work is to identify and correct (i.e. modernize) this content.
- Your input is always welcome.




# Inappropriate GSSO Content Examples (SNOMED CT)

 Victim of homosexual aggression (finding)  

SCTID: 2268003

2268003 | Victim of homosexual aggression (finding) |




- en* Victim of homosexual aggression (finding)
- en* Victim of homosexual aggression

 Bisexual - predominantly homosexual (finding)  

SCTID: 228475007

228475007 | Bisexual - predominantly homosexual (finding) |

- en* Bisexual - predominantly homosexual (finding)
- en* Bisexual - predominantly homosexual

 High risk bisexual behavior (finding)  

SCTID: 288291000119102

288291000119102 | High risk bisexual behavior (finding) |

- en* High risk bisexual behavior (finding)
- en* High risk bisexual behavior
- en* High risk bisexual behaviour
- fr* comportement bisexuel à haut risque
- fr* comportement bisexuel à haut risque (constatation)

What is homosexual aggression?

Where do we draw the line between identity and behaviour?

What is bisexual behaviour?

How can we hope to improve outcomes if our structures / international standards are harmful or stigmatizing?

# Update from HL7 Gender Harmony Project

Rob McClure

## HL7 International Ballot Process

- IG Developers provide Notice of Intent to Ballot (NIB) approximately 2 months prior to a Ballot
- 1 month before the ballot opens, HL7 Int'l notifies eligible voters that ballot consensus groups are open for signup. Voters must sign up before the ballot period opens.
- Once the ballot period opens, Implementation Guides (IG) and documentation are available for review.
  - Before the ballot period closes, voters review ballots, submit votes for each ballot, and submit any comments using the JIRA balloting tool.
- Once the ballot period closes, Implementation Guide authors review all comments, suggestions, and questions. Negative ballots need to be resolved before the ballot can pass.

## HL7 Canada Affiliate Ballot Process for HL7 Int'l Ballots

- The HL7 Canada affiliate has a set number of votes based on the HL7 Canada membership.
- The HL7 Canada Council designates who the voters are for the HL7 Ballots. The designated voters vote as a block.
- When the consensus pool signup opens, each designated voter signs up for all ballots for the ballot period.
- Once the ballot period opens:
  - The HL7 Canada Affiliate Chair, as one of the designated voters, votes to Abstain on all ballots
    - The remaining designated members link their vote to be the same as the Affiliate Chair
  - The Affiliate Chair compiles all of the ballot materials, including a comment spreadsheet, into a ballot package
    - The ballot package is loaded to InfoCentral and a deadline for comment submission is set for approximately 1 week prior to the HL7 International ballot close date. There is a separate comment spreadsheet for each open ballot.

## HL7 Canada Affiliate Ballot Process

- InfoCentral members can comment on any ballots by reviewing the ballot material and adding their comments, suggestions, and questions to their copy of the ballot comment spreadsheet.
  - Completed comment spreadsheets can be submitted to [standards@infoway-inforoute.ca](mailto:standards@infoway-inforoute.ca)
  - If comments are received from someone who is not an InfoCentral member, they will be asked to register with InfoCentral.
- Once the HL7 Canada comment deadline passes:
  - The Affiliate Chair compiles a master spreadsheet for each ballot that has comments
  - The HL7 Canada Council then meets to discuss the comments that have been submitted
- The comment spreadsheets are then batch loaded, by the HL7 Canada Chair, to the HL7 Int'l JIRA Balloting tool before the balloting period closes
  - The batch load will change votes based on the comments that are loaded. Any votes that are changed will be changed for all voters since all votes are linked to the HL7 Canada Chair vote.

## Anonymous ballot comments

- The HL7 Canada Council has been discussing the possibility of anonymizing ballot comments.
- Our suggestion is that on the comment spreadsheet, we add a column for anonymizing the comment submitter. If the anonymize flag is set to Y, we would submit the comment under the name of the affiliate chair, Ron Parker.

A Section	B Vote (AFF/NEG)	C Sub-category	D Existing Wording	E Proposed Wording	F Ballot Comment	G Anonymize (Y/N)
7.5.1	Affirmative or Negative	Comment Suggestion Correction Question	For Typo or Correction	For Typo or Correction	Comment Suggestion Correction Question	

- Only Ron Parker and Joanie Harper would have access to the names of those commenters that wish to remain anonymous.
- Should the HL7 Gender Harmony ballot authors need clarification or have questions, Ron/Joanie would facilitate either putting the commentor into direct contact with the IG authors or connecting a delegate with the IG authors.

## September 2022 Ballot Timeline

- Sign up for Consensus pools: July 11 – August 11
- Ballot opens: August 12
- Ballot package loaded to InfoCentral: August 15 – 17
- HL7 Canada Community comment deadline: September 6
- Ballot closes: September 12

Note: There will be a ballot for FHIR R5 that will open later in September.

- The Gender Harmony ballots will now coincide with the FHIR R5 ballots, due to dependencies on the FHIR R5 material
  - Ballots with Gender Harmony information will be:
    - FHIR R5
    - HL7 V2
    - Cross Paradigm Gender Harmony Implementation Guide
  - These ballots will likely open on September 13 and close on October 13.

## Next steps (Ron)

- Ron Parker to upload a ballot package for the Cross Paradigm IG ballot to the SGWG forum
  - This package will include the comment spreadsheet, as well as instructions for adding comments to the spreadsheet.
- A forum thread for answering ballot related questions

**Thank You**

The background features a white field on the left and a dark blue field on the right, separated by a curved white boundary. A red triangular shape is positioned at the bottom right, overlapping the white and dark blue areas.