

Draft Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Framework

Information Model, Conceptual Data Model & Logical Data Model

Version 1, September 2024

(for review and reference only, not an official version)



Canadian Institute
for Health Information

Institut canadien
d'information sur la santé

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Acknowledgements

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- Ontario Health
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- OntarioMD
- Provincial Health Services Authority
- Shared Health
- Statistics Canada

Special acknowledgment is also given to the people with lived and living experience, providers, researchers, Indigenous partners, provincial and territorial governments, policymakers and data architects who offered invaluable insights and feedback throughout the development process. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing the Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Framework and ensuring it meets the diverse needs of Canada's health care landscape.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to participate in our consultations or provide feedback, please email us at connectedcare@cihi.ca.

Introduction

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is developing the Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Framework, which defines, standardizes, and models the health data required to enable connected care in Canada.

The Pan-Canadian Health Data Models are some of the products packaged in the Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Framework.

What is the Information Model?

The Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Information Model (IM) is a high-level model which highlights the key real-world concepts that are important to understanding a person's health. It establishes subject areas for organizing concepts from the data content standard. The subject areas in the Information Model are grouped into layers, each representing data as seen from different health care perspectives: Person Health (Micro), Care Organization (Meso), Health care Jurisdiction (Macro), and the Health care system (Mega). Some concepts in each layer are related to concepts in other layers. However, such relationships are not meant to be exhaustive and are only included to show the overall connections between all health care data.

The scope of the Information Model is intended to cover the entire Canadian health care system. As such, it will contain main topics not yet detailed in the conceptual and logical data models. As the Information Model is intended to provide an overview of all major health care concepts, it will not include the depth of detail included in the conceptual data model or logical data model.

Since the March 2024 release, the Information Model has been restructured to better align with the data categories established within the Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Standard. This artifact has not been reviewed with subject matter experts and has a lower maturity level (0: In development) in comparison with the other data models (1: Draft).

What is the Conceptual Data Model?

The Pan-Canadian Health Conceptual Data Model (CDM) is a high-level model that organizes key health and supporting information concepts. This model provides more detail than the Information Model but does not include the detailed attributions that are specified in the Logical Data Model.

The complete conceptual data model view diagram provides an overview of all entities and relationships detailed within the data models.

What is the Logical Data Model?

The Pan-Canadian Health Logical Data Model (LDM) is a technology-agnostic, semantically rich logical data model that organizes and standardizes health data concepts and how they relate to each other and to the real world. This model, which is integrated with Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Standard, will be a foundational component for data management and data exchange. The model is designed to support future development while still reflecting current real-world scenarios.

This is a Common Data Model that provides a comprehensive foundation to specify how data is organized and represented across the health care continuum. It promotes data integrity and quality by establishing common rules and constraints. The holistic scope of the

model will contribute to better patient care by enabling implementation of standardized comprehensive health records.

The shared language established by the models, in conjunction with the Business Glossary, will enable a mutual understanding of data and will standardize data management, analytics, and interoperability. The simplification and reuse of data management and analytical practices can foster cost reduction and increased efficiency.

A cornerstone of the data models' design is the use of a person-centric approach to ensure precise representation of data about patients and other persons, as required for providing high-quality health care services. The person-centric approach was expanded into the Person-In-A-Role design, allowing for flexible data models that can handle the same person playing one or more roles (e.g. patient, provider). The Party-Role standard data model pattern was used to model entities and relationships. The Party-Role pattern also broadens the concept of 'person' into 'party' to include organizations and groups, thus allowing for additional model flexibility.

Audiences

The audiences for the Logical Data Model consist of decision-makers, policymakers, researchers, health care institutions, IT staff, clinical solution vendor technical staff, experts involved in standards development and data architecture, software developers, and those interested in e-health and digital health modernization initiatives, and anyone who would like more information about the Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Framework.

The data models increase in detail from Information Model to Conceptual Data Model to Logical Data Model. Clinical audiences and the general public may find it beneficial to view the Information Model and the Conceptual Data Model first to orient themselves as to the general structure and layout of those models, before diving into the Logical Data Model.

Development approach

An environmental scan was conducted for existing health standards produced by Canadian organizations, international organizations, and various other health authorities. A model structure was established that contains key concepts from those standards, which are also documented in the [Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Framework's data content standard](#), on which the model is based. The model's structure was validated by internal and external stakeholders and was iteratively refined based on the feedback received.

The model strives to reflect both the current realities of the Canadian health care system and how it could be improved upon in a future ideal state. It remains technology-agnostic with only the inclusion of generic data types and business metadata. Technical attributes, such as primary and foreign keys to link tables and databases, were not included and implementors will need to add further detail as required by their physical system.

Architecture Principles

When developing the data models, the following characteristics served as guiding principles for all design choices.

- **Flexibility:** Establish a common data model that can be further specialized based on individual needs.
- **Consistency:** Provide coherent, non-contradictory representation of data through model entities, attributes, relationships, rules, value sets, and metadata.
- **Simplicity:** Design to facilitate clear understanding and easy adoption.
- **Abstraction:** Manage the level of abstraction that is required to properly represent entities, relationships, and other model elements.
- **Clear Definition:** Develop definitions that promote common understanding and facilitate proper adoption – definitions of modelled information are fully documented in the Business Glossary.
- **Evolution:** Design with agility and scalability in mind, using techniques such as inheritance or metadata to seamlessly add new attributes.
- **Accuracy and Traceability:** Provide up-to-date, comprehensive documentation and metadata to ensure common correct understanding of the model.

Help us shape the Data Models

Your feedback is critical to the development of the data models. We are asking the public to help us identify key missing concepts, provide feedback on key concept definitions, and validate core relationships at a high level.

Please complete the [feedback survey](#) at this link.

Logical & Conceptual Data Model

Composition

The logical and conceptual data models covers the following subject areas:

1. Address and Location
2. Allergy and Intolerance
3. Drug Product
4. Geography
5. Health Service Event

6. Immunization
7. Medication Request, Statement, Administration
8. Organization Information
9. Patient Encounter
10. Patient Health Concern
11. Person Information
12. Social Determinants of Health Concepts
13. Social Determinants of Health Assessment

Definitions & Naming Conventions

The definitions of attributes and entities in the Logical Data Model (LDM) describe the data concepts represented in the model and are linked to one or more terms within the business glossary.

A standard naming convention is applied across the LDM to ensure clear understanding of entities and attributes. A few details are outlined below to aid reader understanding.

Entity:

- Metadata value sets with complex structure will be emphasized as an individual entity.
- Bridge entities will be composed of the names of both entities they connect.

Attribute:

- Business dates are titled “entity name” effective date or “entity name” expiry date.
- Attributes are typically prefixed by entity-specific characteristics (generally but not necessarily the name of the entity) to distinguish them from other similar attributes. However, such prefixing applies only when the meaning of an attribute involves the entity to which it belongs.
 - For example, in the Patient Allergy-Intolerance entity, the attribute name Patient Allergy-Intolerance Resolution Date contains the prefix Patient, which is an entity-specific characteristic, since different patients may have different resolution dates for the same allergy or intolerance.
 - On the other hand, the attribute Allergy-Intolerance Code in the same entity does not contain the entity prefix (which would necessarily begin with Patient) since the meaning of an allergy-intolerance – product or substance – does not involve patients having that condition.

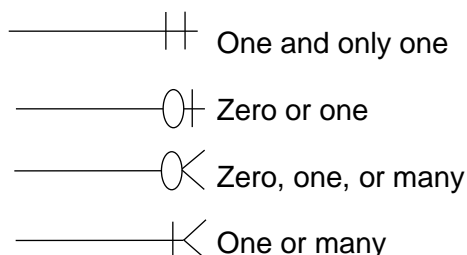
It follows from the above that:

- Attributes with the same name have same meaning.

Relationships

Association:

Plain lines in the Logical and Conceptual Data Models represent association relationships between entities. Information engineering is used to depict cardinalities in these relationships. This includes zero to one, one to one, zero to many and one to many relationships.



Any such cardinality applies to the entity which is the nearest to its symbol in a diagram. Every relationship thus has 2 cardinality symbols, one at either end.

The direction of a relationship is depicted by an arrow near its name.

For example, the Patient Health Concern subject area contains the relationship “has recorded” from Patient Health Concern entity to Health Concern Evidence entity. Its cardinalities, as their symbols indicate, are:

- One and only one near the Patient Health Concern entity.
- Zero, one, or many near the Health Concern Evidence entity.

Therefore, each Patient Health Concern has zero, one, or many instances of Health Concern Evidence (e.g. an Xray, an MRI scan, a patient history file). Conversely, each instance of Health Concern Evidence applies to one and only one Patient Health Concern.

Stated simply, a Patient Health Concern may have recorded Health Concern Evidence(s). Conversely, Health Concern Evidence is always recorded for a single Patient Health Concern.

Generalization:

Generalization relationships have an arrow point from the child to the parent.



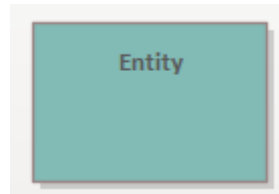
This means that the child entity is a special case (subtype) of the parent entity.

For example, in the Drug Product subject area, Substance is a (special case of) Drug. Consequently, all properties of the parent entity Drug – all its attributes and all the relationships from or to it – also apply to the child entity Substance.

Legend

1. **Entity:** An encapsulation of data recognized by a domain expert as a representation of a discrete concept. Examples include "immunization", "metadata", and "business glossary."

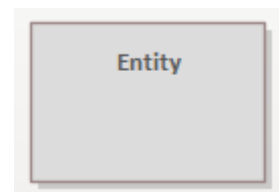
- a. **Green Entities:** Entities detailed in the subject area diagram



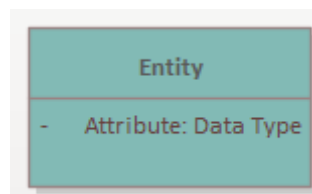
- b. **Brown Entities:** Entities detailed in another subject area diagram



- c. **Gray Entities:** Entities to be detailed in a future release



2. **Attribute** (in Logical Data Model only): A characteristic of an entity, providing more specific information to distinguish it from other entities.



- a. Each attribute will have an associated data type.

Data Type

ISO 11404 was used as a key reference in developing the following data types for the logical data model.

- String: A sequence of characters, numbers, or symbols.

- Codeable concept: A combination of code system and value set code which uniquely identifies a concept within the value set.
- Date: A day, month, and year.
- Date time: Date and time together.
- Decimal: A non-negative number with 0 or more significant digits after the decimal point.
- Integer: A non-negative number with no significant digits after the decimal point.
- Identifier: A string or number that uniquely identifies a person, item, or location within an identifier system.
- Indicator: A true or false value.
- Polygon: A sequence of coordinates to denote the boundary of a geographic shape.

CACDI View

The Canadian Core Data for Interoperability (CACDI) defines a standardized set of essential health data elements and value sets in the context of a common data architecture to support interoperability and data exchange across the Canadian health care ecosystem. The CACDI represents the minimum data required to support standardized information capture and enable meaningful exchange of health information. It aims to standardize the capture, structure, and exchange of health data across the health continuum by providing a foundation of standardized data elements applicable to multiple health care settings.

The CACDI is a subset of the Pan-Canadian Health Data Content Framework and works in tandem with the Fast Health Care Interoperability Resources (FHIR) profiles created by Canada Health Infoway (also known as CA Core+) to facilitate the meaningful exchange of health care information. Together, the efforts of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and of Canada Health Infoway, including the development of national health data content and data exchange standards, will support the uninterrupted and accurate exchange of health information across Canada, aligning with Health Canada’s vision for a modern, integrated health care system.

The CACDI view of the Logical and Conceptual Data Models details the concepts, value sets, and relationships identified within the CACDI. In the CACDI view of the model, attributes will be tagged as “Essential for Exchange” or “Recommended for Exchange”.

No Absent

When populating an entity, all its attributes marked with “No Absent” should have a meaningful value; null and absent values are not considered meaningful values. Attributes are categorized as “No Absent” if they are required for patient safety, to meet a regulatory requirement, or directly impact the meaning and understanding of the entity.

How to Navigate the Model

Viewing the HTML

1. Download the zip file
2. Extract the zip file
3. Open the index.html file using a web browser

Selecting a Diagram

4. Open the Diagram folder using the index on the left-hand side of the browser window
5. Click on the diagram of interest to view it

Selecting an Entity

1. Open the Entity folder using the index on the left-hand side of the browser window
2. Click on the entity of interest to view details associated with it

Entity Components

The screenshot shows the 'Immunization Reaction' entity page. On the left, a sidebar lists 'Project: Entity'. The main content area is titled 'Immunization Reaction' and includes a breadcrumb trail: 'The Data Models / Logical Data Model (LDM) / Entity / Immunization Reaction'. The page is annotated with red boxes and lines pointing to various components:

- a) Entity Name:** Points to the entity name 'Immunization Reaction' at the top.
- b) Related Diagrams:** Points to the 'Appears In:' section, which lists 'Complete CDM', 'Immunization LDM Subject Area', and 'Immunization CDM Subject Area'.
- c) Entity Definition:** Points to the text 'An undesirable side effect that occurs after an immunization.'
- d) Attribute Name:** Points to the attribute name 'Immunization Reaction Code' in the 'Attribute' table.
- e) Attribute Data Type:** Points to the 'Type' column, which is 'Codeable Concept'.
- f) Attribute Definition:** Points to the 'Notes' section for the attribute: 'A code that specifies the type of immunization reaction (e.g. rash, fever, anaphylaxis). Value Set Output File - Immunization Reaction.xlsx'.
- g) Value Set:** Points to the 'Notes' section for another attribute: 'A code that specifies the source of information reporting the immunization reaction (e.g. person, healthcare professional). Value Set Output File - Immunization Reaction Reporting Source.xlsx'.

- a) Entity Name: Name of the entity detailed on the page.
- b) Connected Diagrams: Lists all diagrams in which the entity appears.
- c) Entity Definition: A description of the entity to aid understanding.
- d) Attribute Name: Name of the attribute associated with the entity.
- e) Attribute Data Type: The data type of the attribute.
- f) Attribute Definition: A description of the attribute to aid understanding.

- g) Value Set: Open and download the attached excel file to view value sets associated with each codeable concept.

Entity – Association

The screenshot displays two views of the 'Immunization Reaction' entity. The top view shows a relationship 'reported by' where the relationship direction is 'reported by' and the target entity is 'Party Role'. The bottom view shows a relationship 'has' where the relationship direction is 'has' and the target entity is 'Immunization'. Red annotations highlight these elements: 'Immunization Reaction' (Entity Name), 'reported by' (Relationship Direction), 'Party Role' (Associated Entity), 'has' (Relationship Name), and 'Immunization' (Associated Entity).

- a) Entity Name: Name of the entity detailed on the page.
- b) Relationship Direction: Indicates the direction in which the reader should read the relationship. Association to relationships start with a) Entity Name while association from relationships start with d) Associated Entity. If present, generalizations will be found in the “Other Links” tab.
- Association to: Patient Encounter is part of Episode of Care
 - Association from: Appointment for Patient Encounter
- c) Relationship Name: The type of relationship being detailed.
- d) Associated Entity: The entity related to the one detailed on the page.

Entity – Constraints

The screenshot shows the 'Constraints' tab for the 'Immunization Reaction' entity. A red box highlights the text 'Unique Key: Immunization, Immunization Reaction Code'.

- a) Unique keys: Unique business keys for each entity are identified via constraints. Entities that only have a technical key (e.g. Record ID) will not have a documented unique key.

Maturity

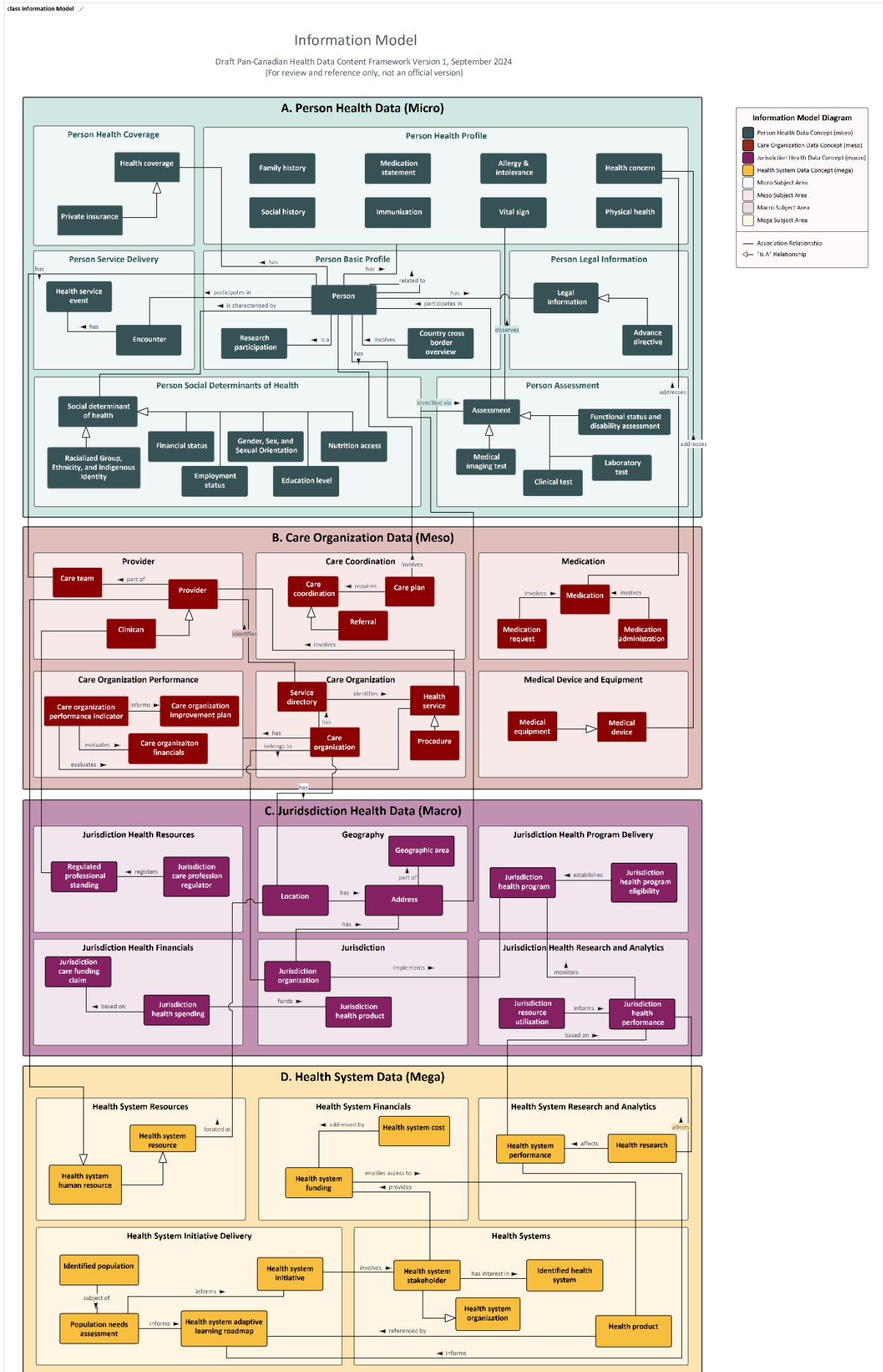
A maturity model (Table 1) was designed to transparently document the readiness of artifacts within the framework, including data elements, value sets, definitions, and data architecture components. The maturity model facilitates tracking the evolution of those artifacts over time, enabling continuous refinement and enhancement based on feedback and emerging needs. The maturity of the framework’s deliverables will be re-evaluated with each release. The maturity level of the Information Model is 0: In development and the maturity level of the Conceptual Data Model and Logical Data Model is 1: Draft.

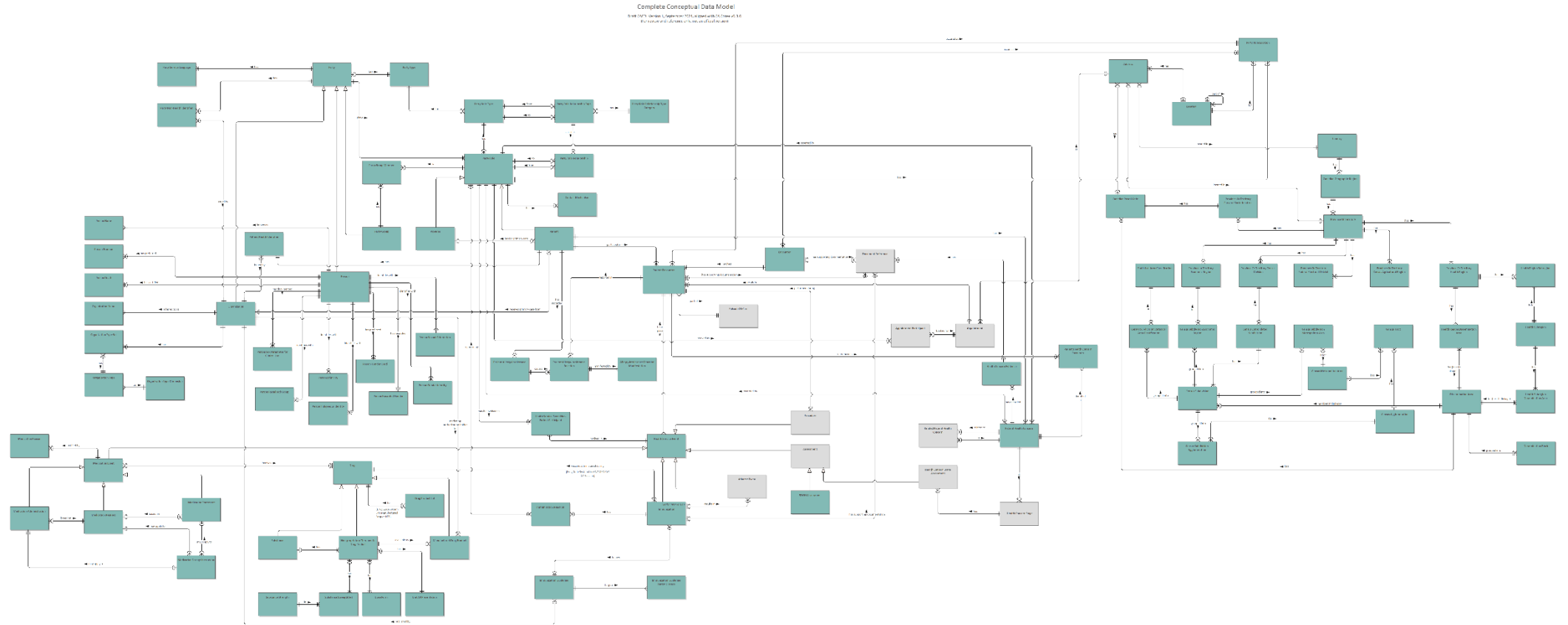
Table 1 Maturity model

Stage of maturity	Definition
Future development	Coming soon
0: In development	Artifact is a work in progress
1: Draft	Artifact incorporates input from experts
2: Proposed	Artifact has been through at least one round of open public review
3: Ready for use	Artifact is ready for implementation

Appendix A: Static Information Model

For details, definitions, and an interactive model, please refer to the zipped data model HTML file.



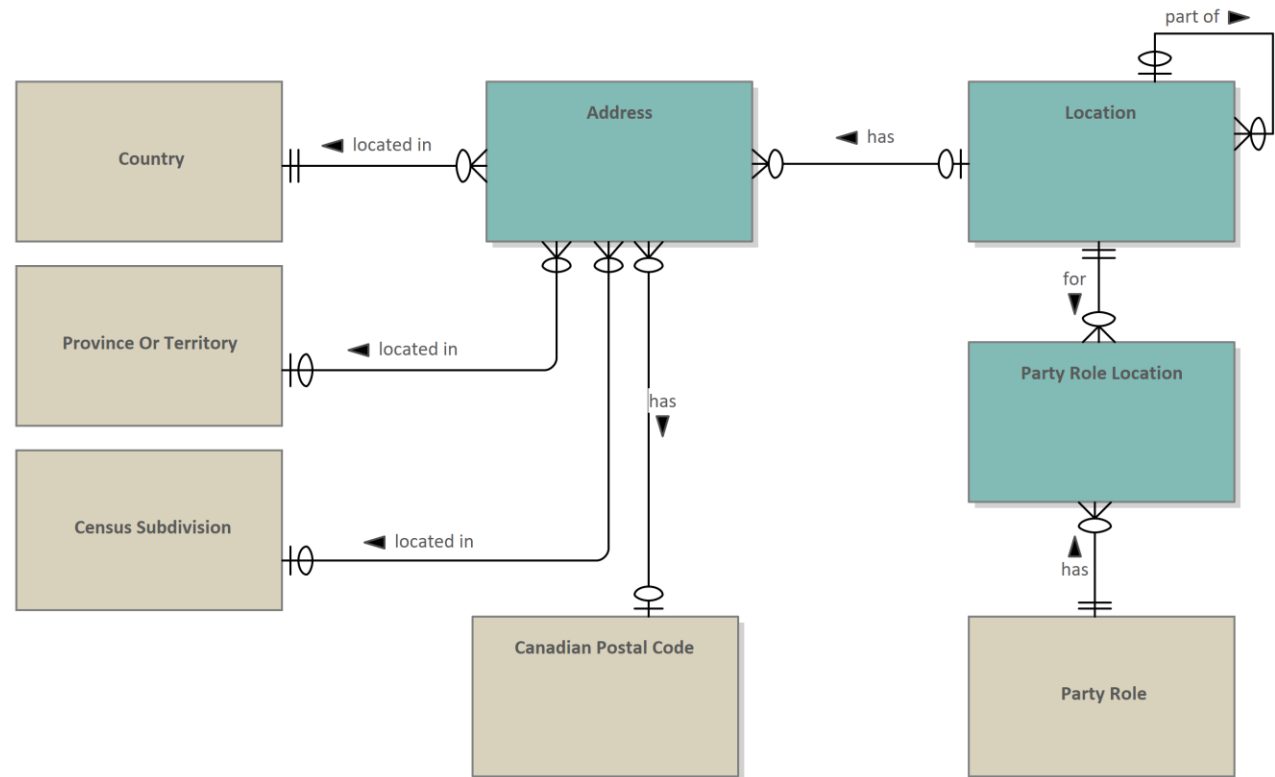


class Address and Location CDM Subject Area



Address and Location - Conceptual Data Model Subject Area

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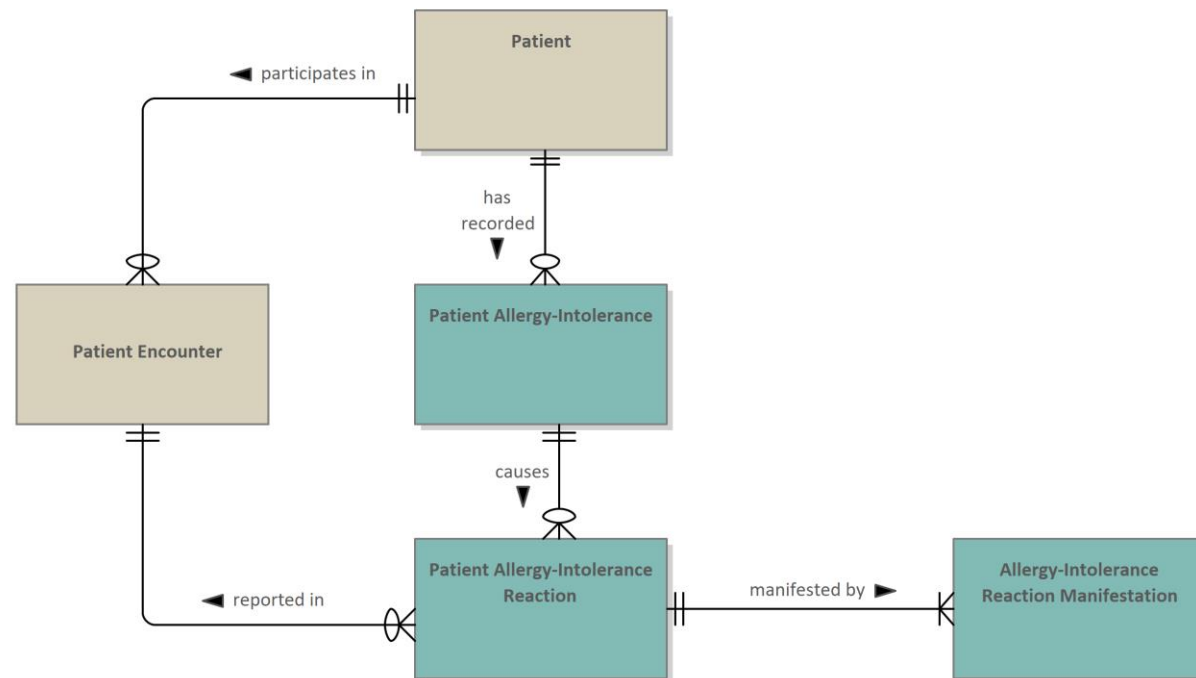


class Allergy and Intolerance CDM Subject Area



Allergy and Intolerance - Conceptual Data Model Subject Area

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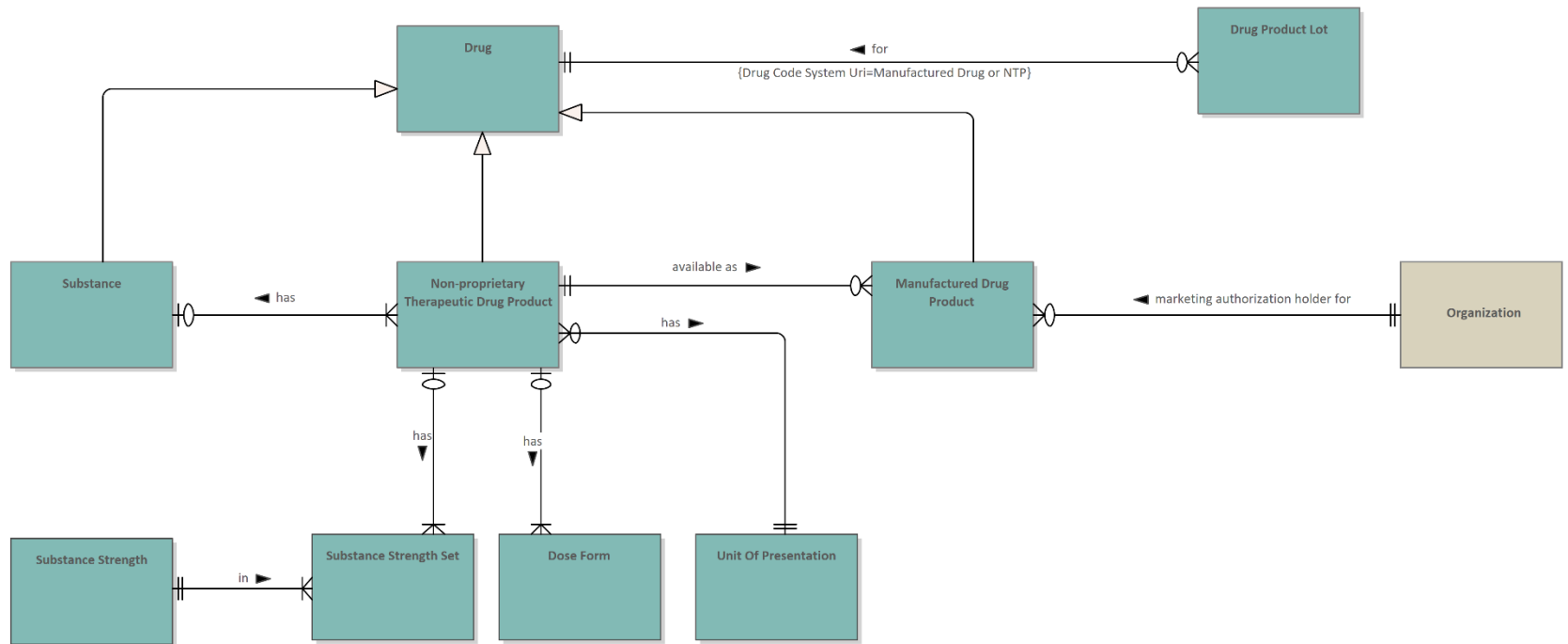


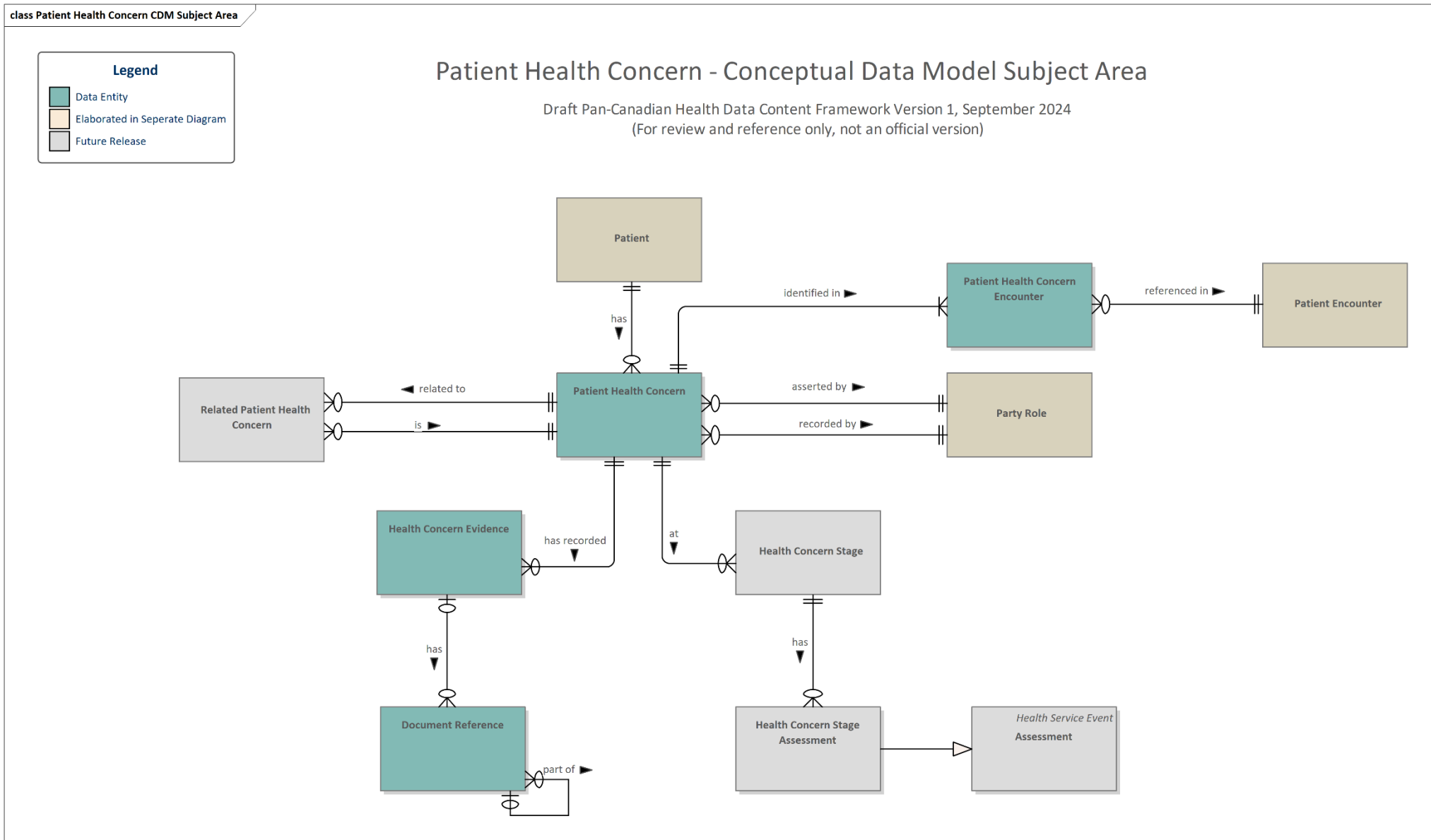
class Drug Product CDM Subject Area



Drug Product - Conceptual Data Model Subject Area

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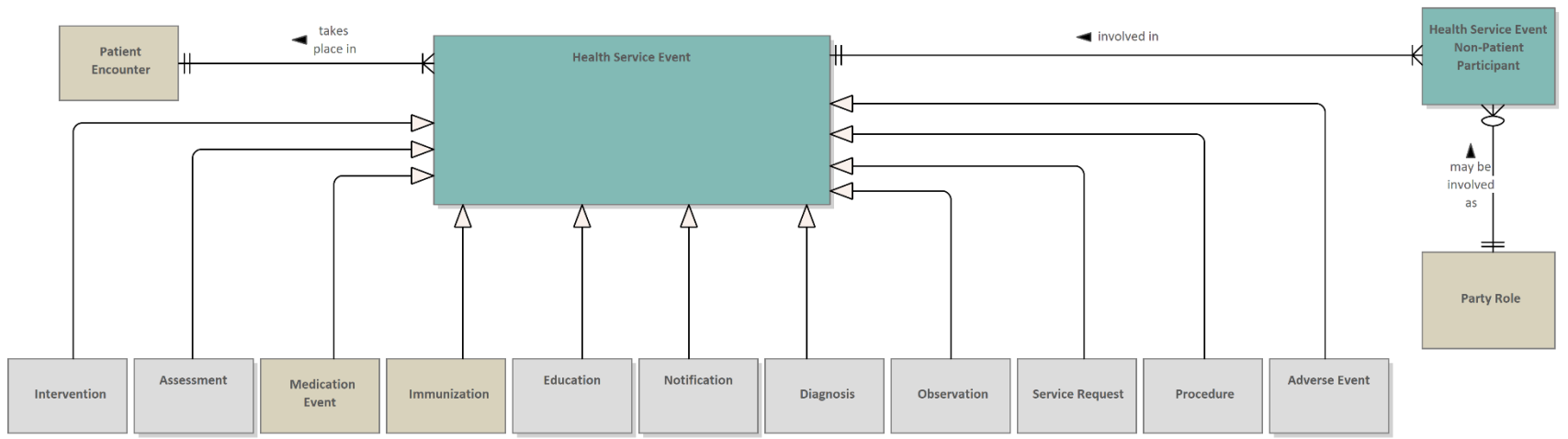
class Health Service Event CDM Subject Area

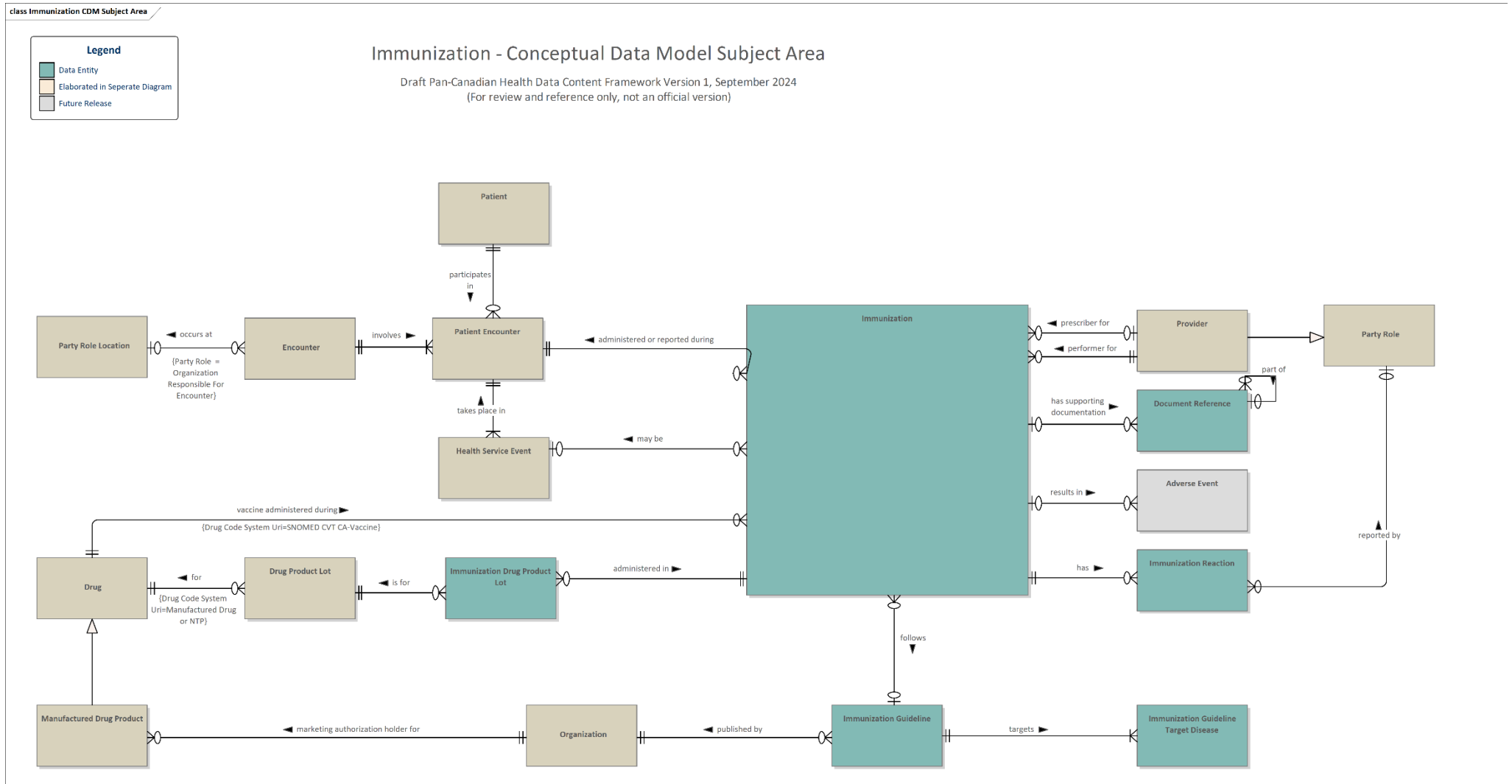


Health Service Event - Conceptual Data Model Subject Area

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Complete list of Health Service Events is in development



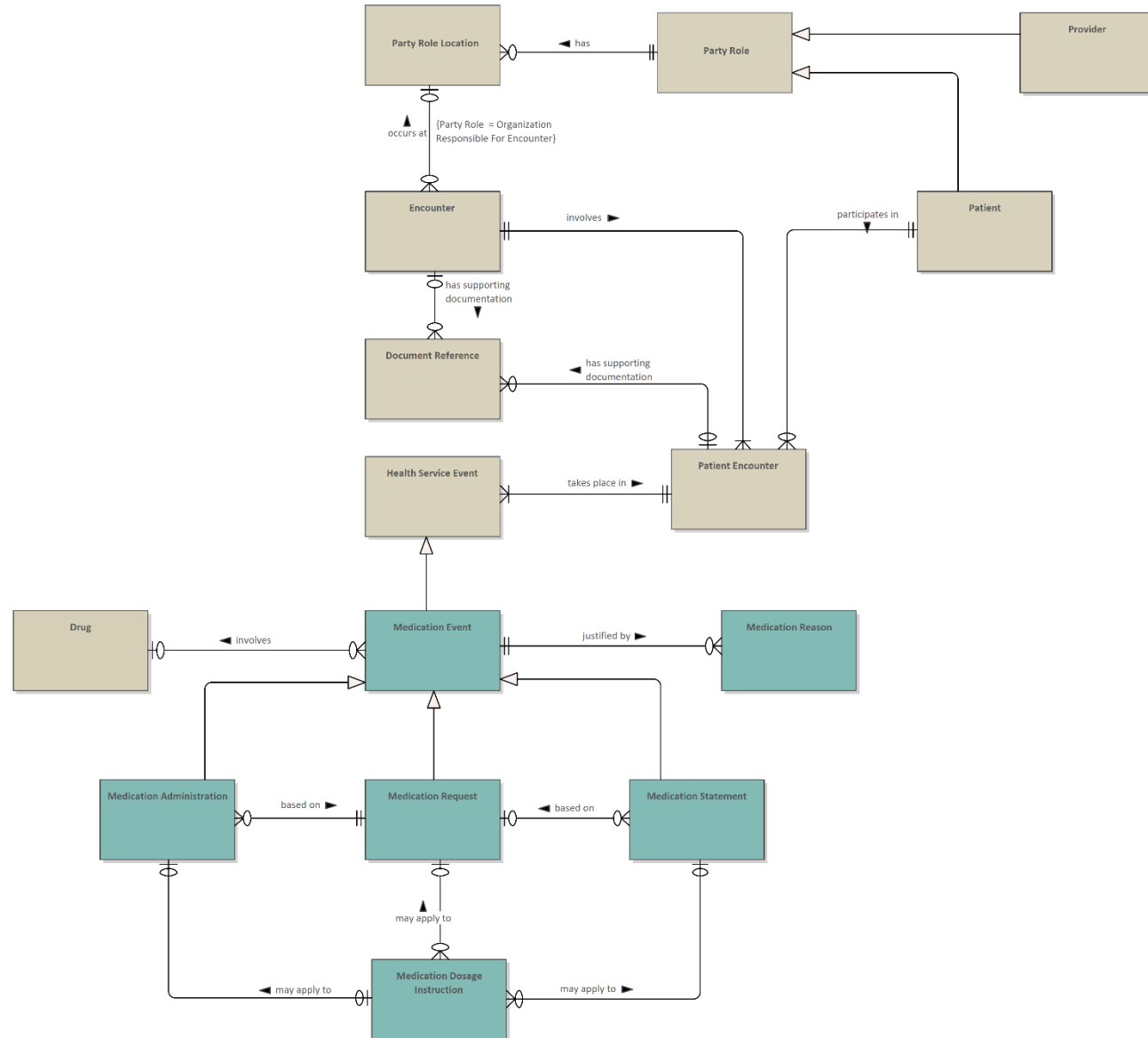


class Medication Request Statement, Administration CDM Subject Area



Medication Request, Statement, Administration - Conceptual Data Model Subject Area

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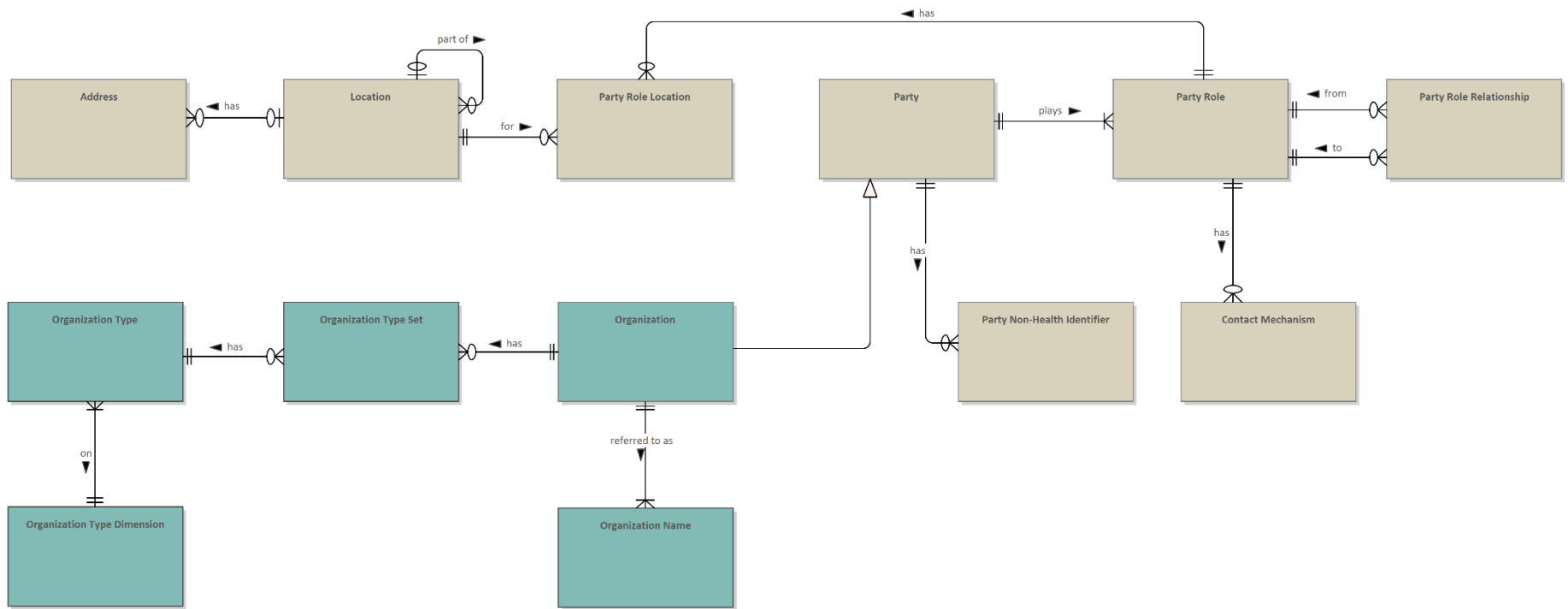


class Organization Information CDM Subject Area



Organization Information - Conceptual Data Model Subject Area

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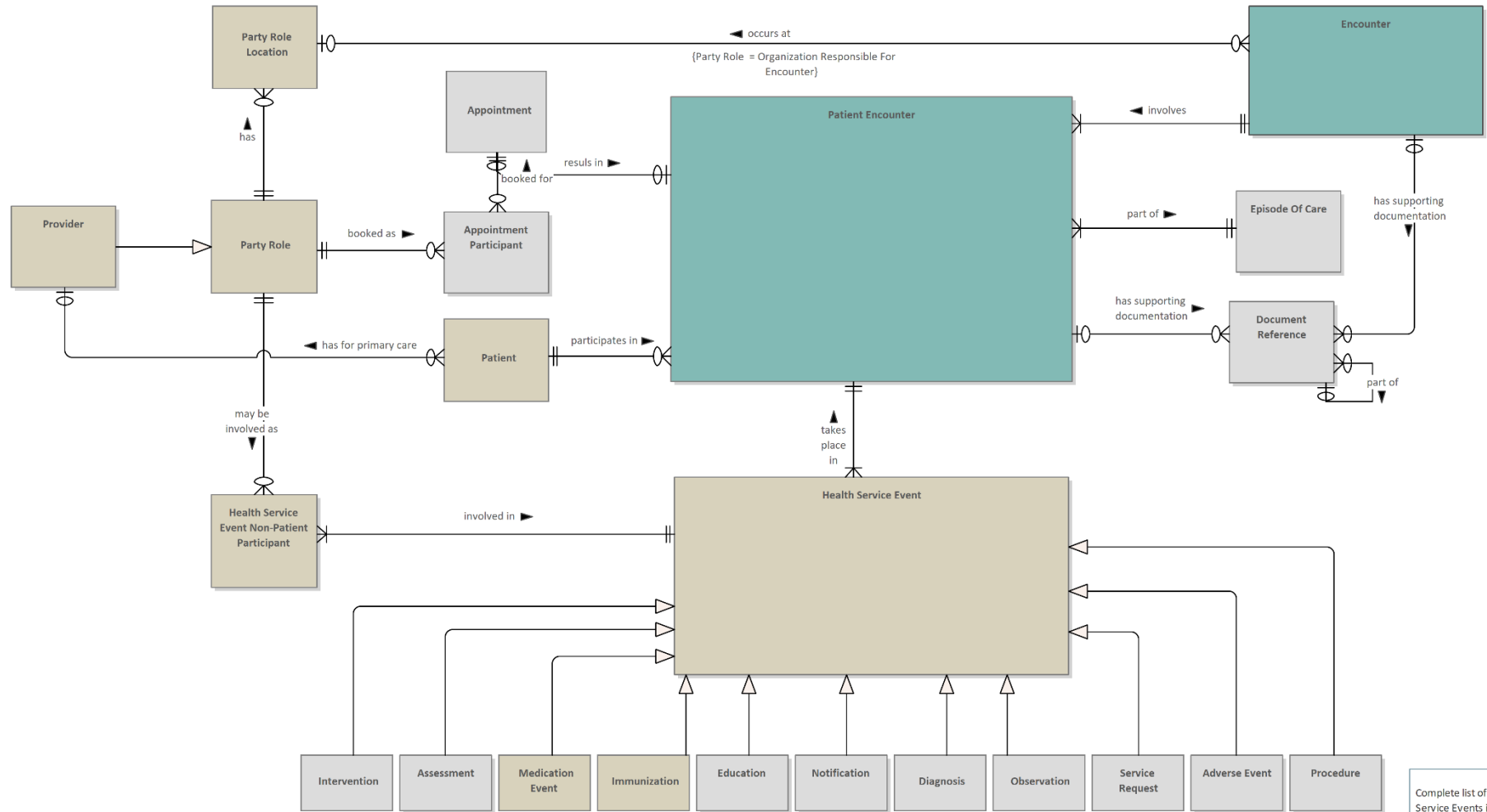


class Patient Encounter CDM Subject Area



Patient Encounter - Conceptual Data Model Subject Area

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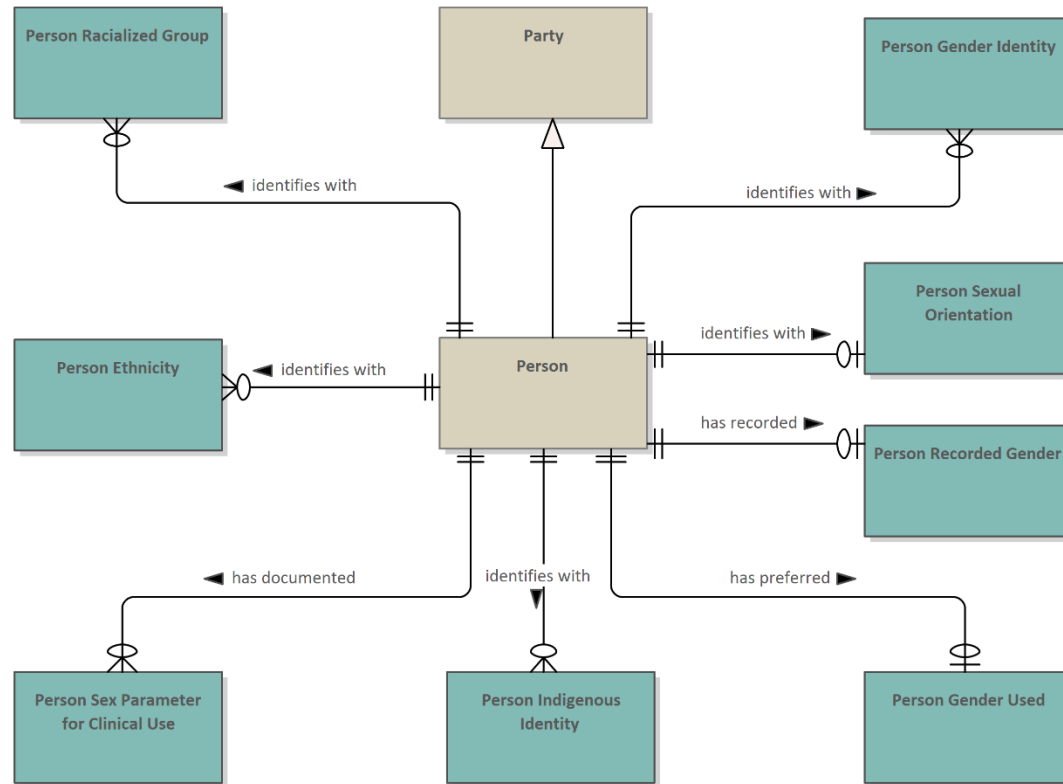
Complete list of Health Service Events is in development

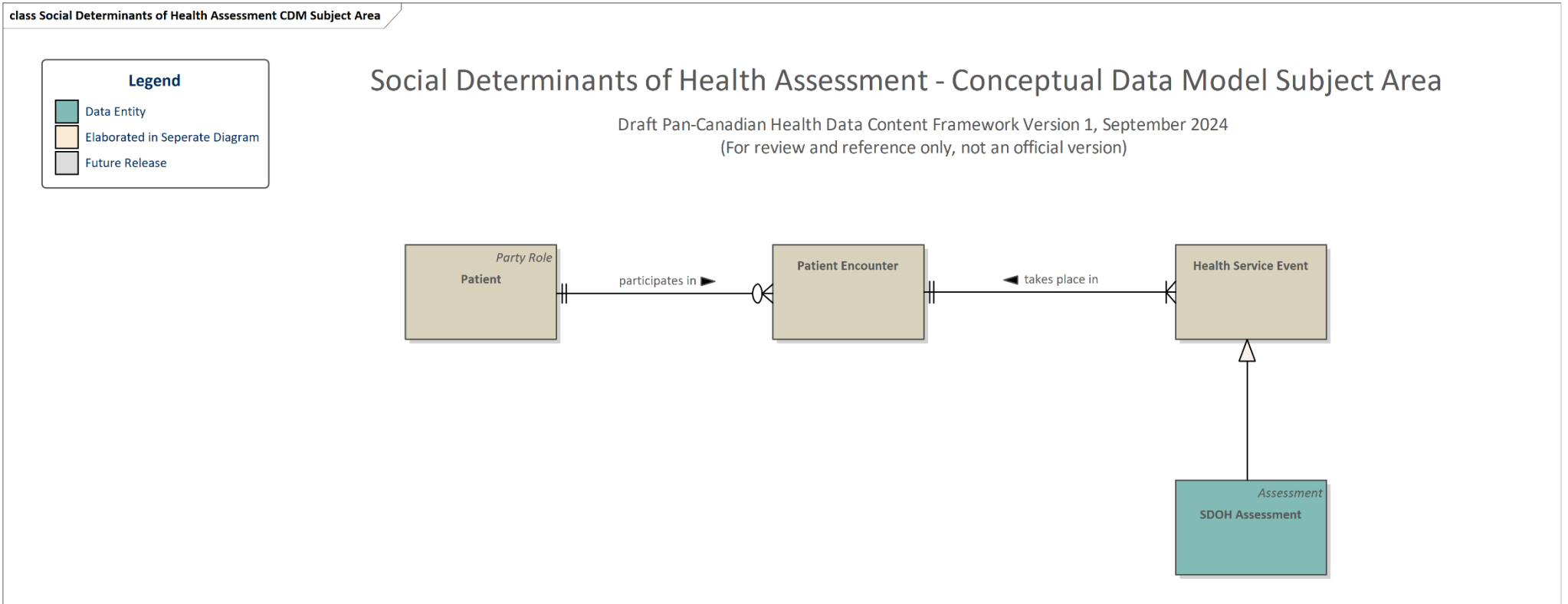
class Social Determinants of Health Concepts CDM Subject Area



Social Determinants of Health Concepts - Conceptual Data Model Subject Area

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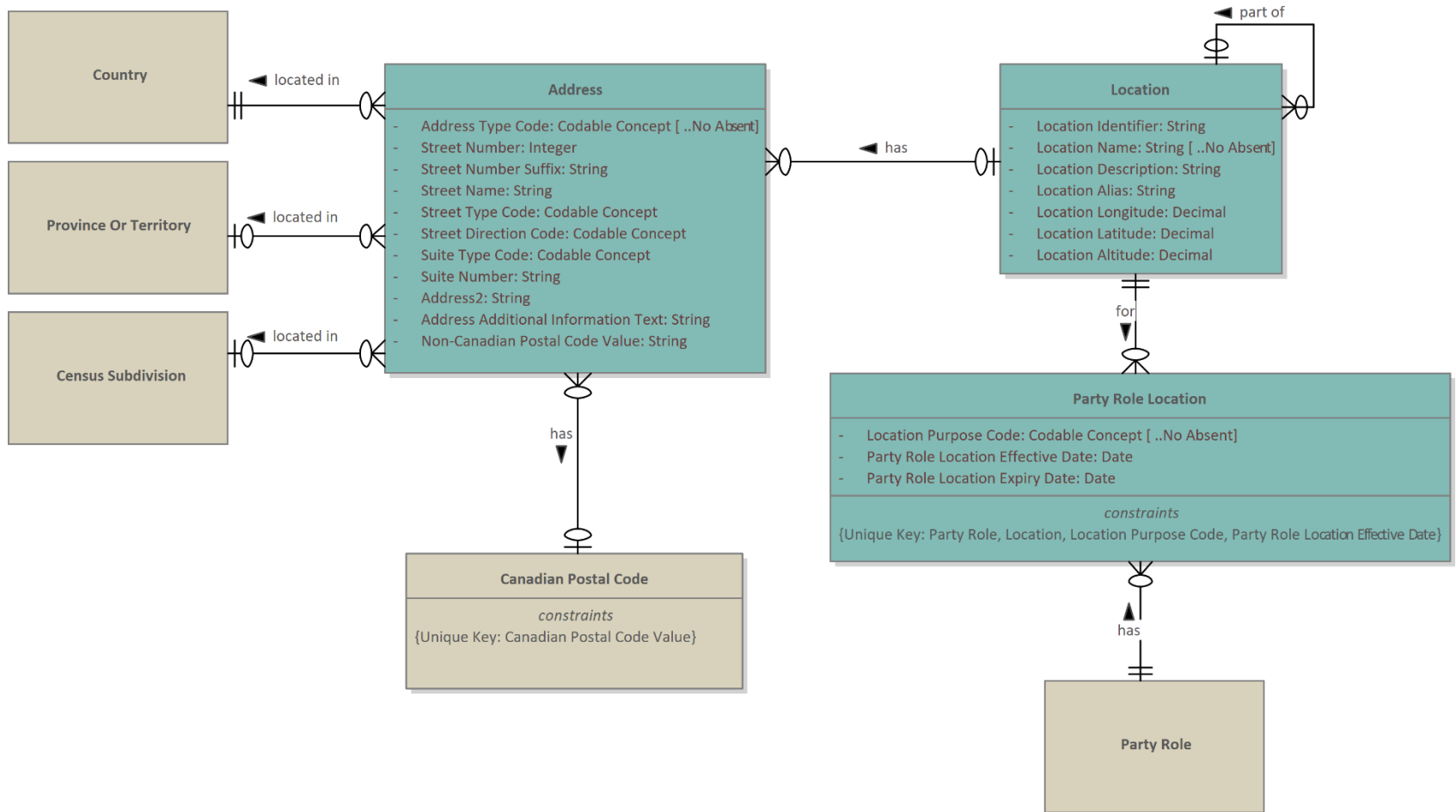


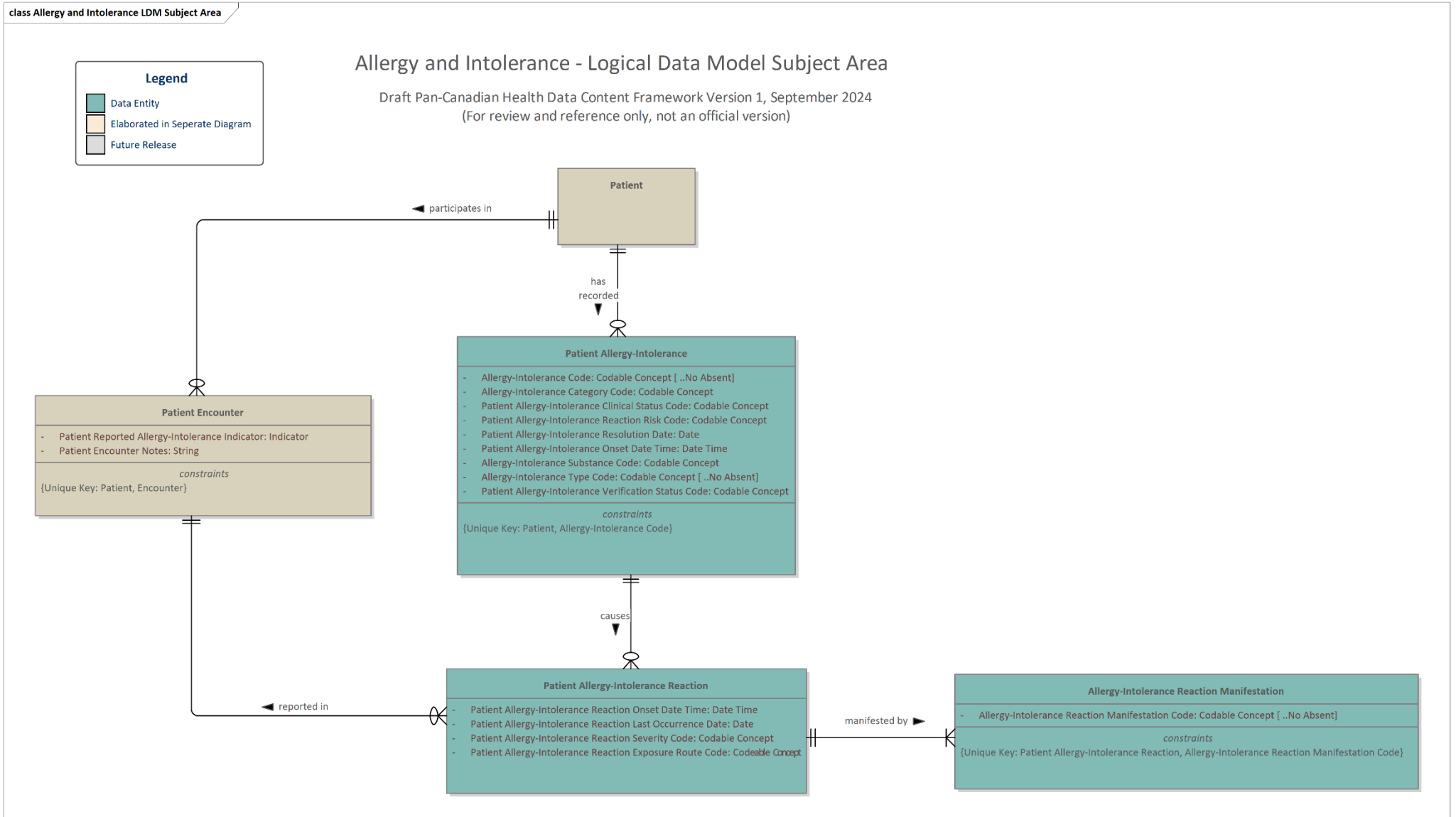
class Address and Location LDM Subject Area

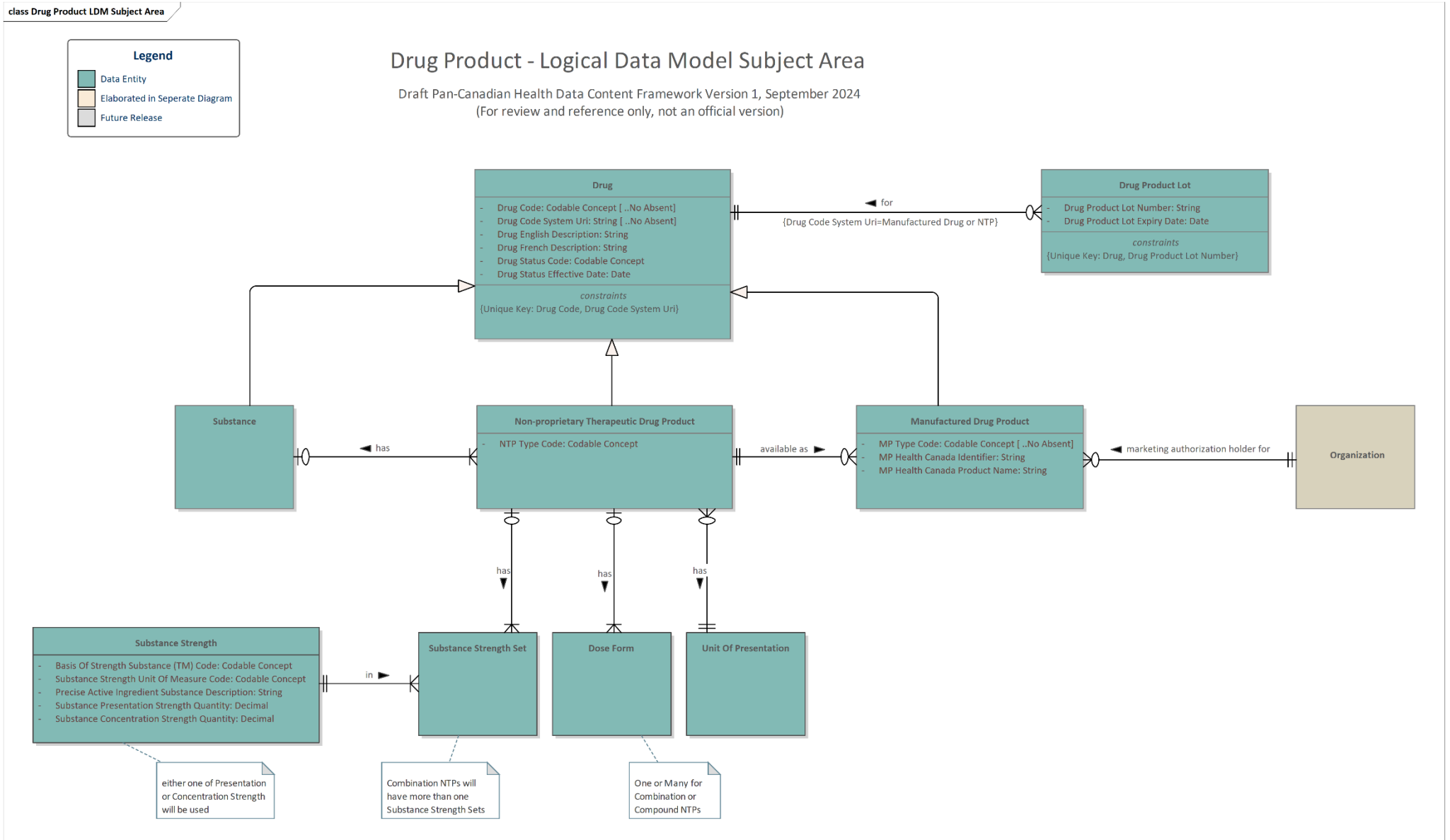


Address and Location - Logical Data Model Subject Area

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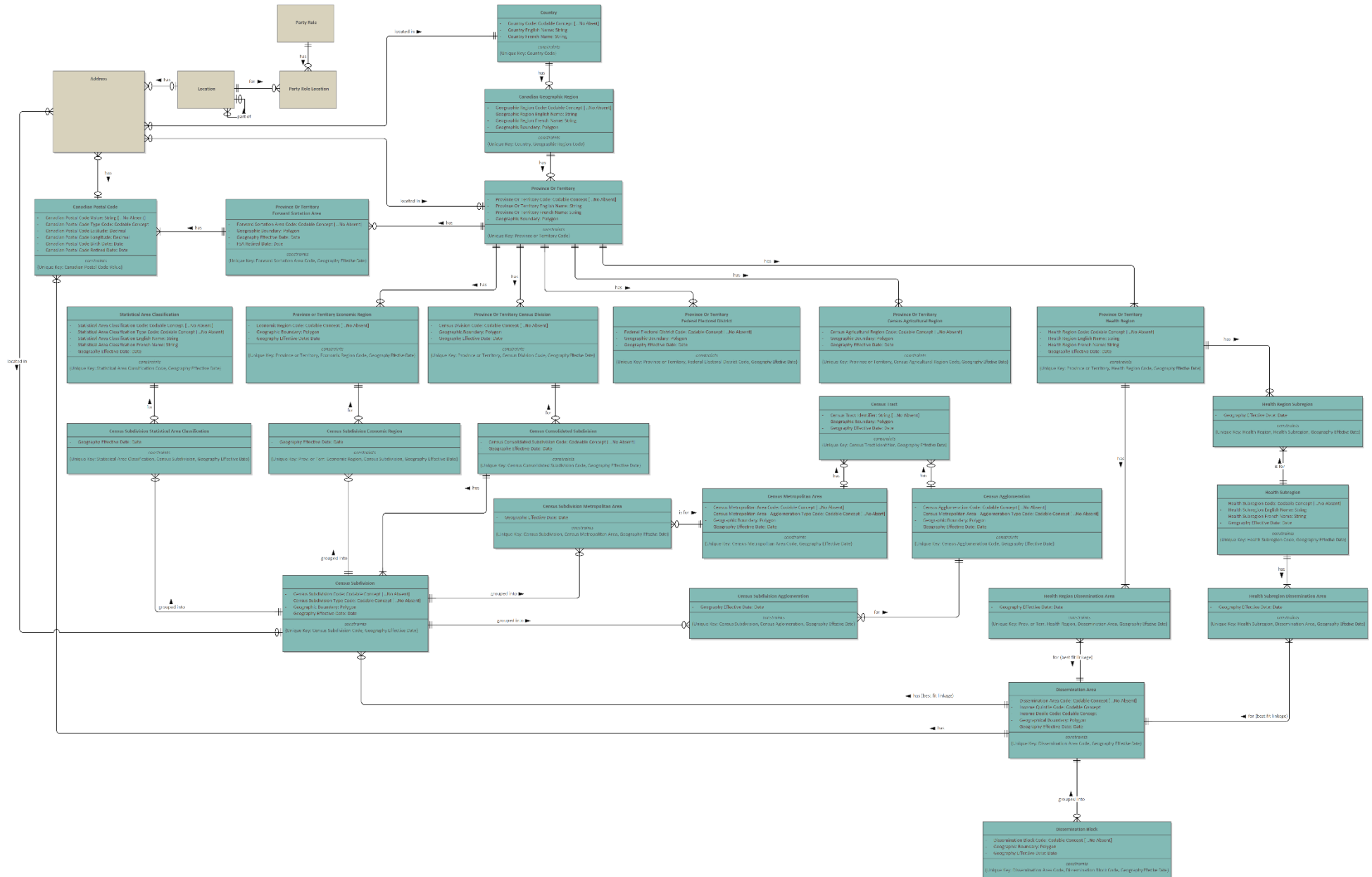


class Geography EDM Subject Area



Geography - Logical Data Model Subject Area

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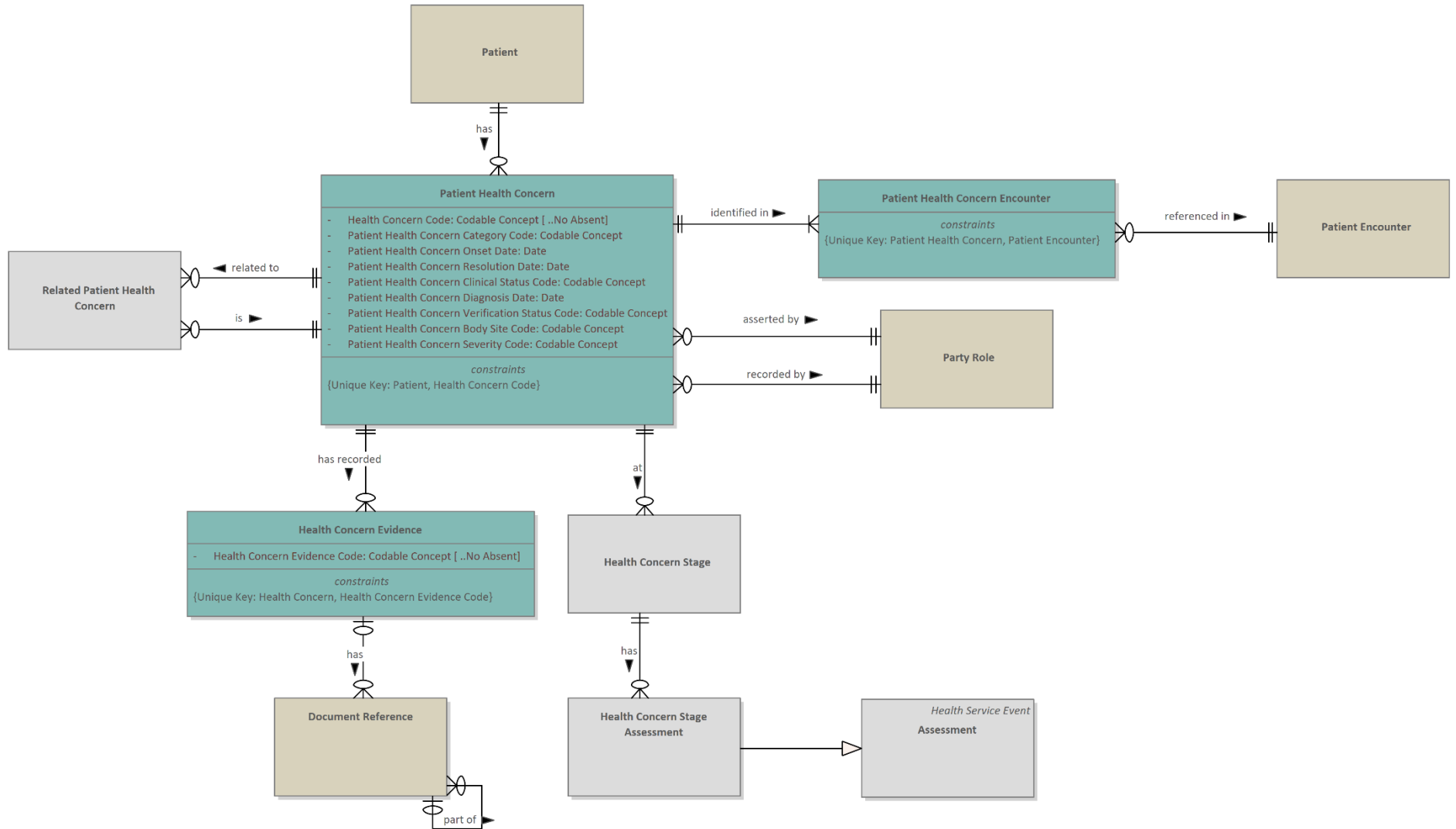
class Patient Health Concern LDM Subject Area

Legend

- Data Entity
- Elaborated in Seperate Diagram
- Future Release

Patient Health Concern - Logical Data Model Subject Area

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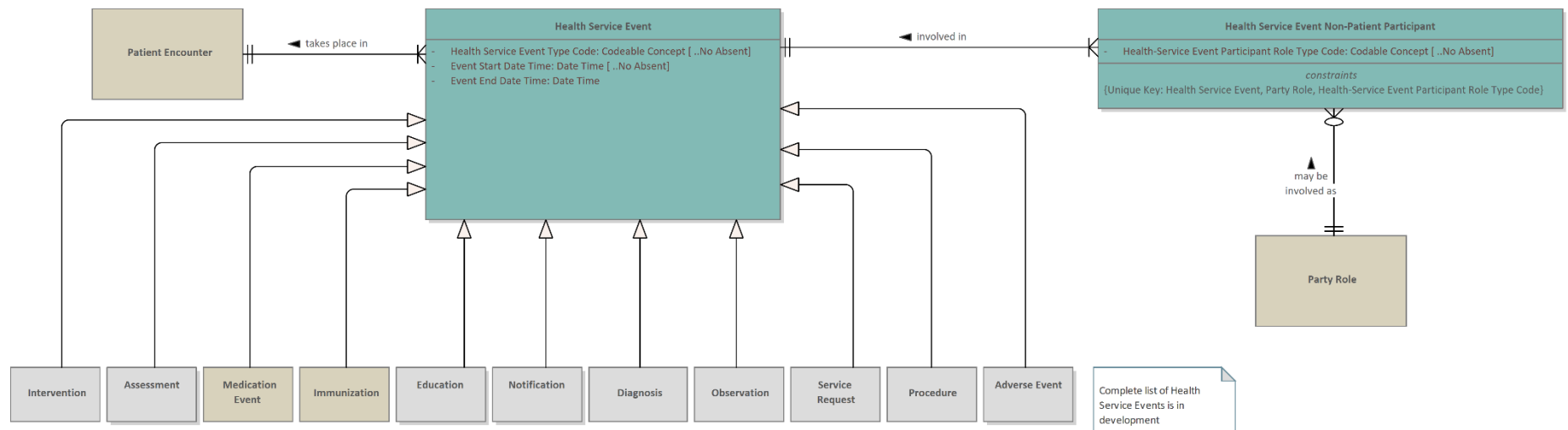


class Health Service Event LDM Subject Area

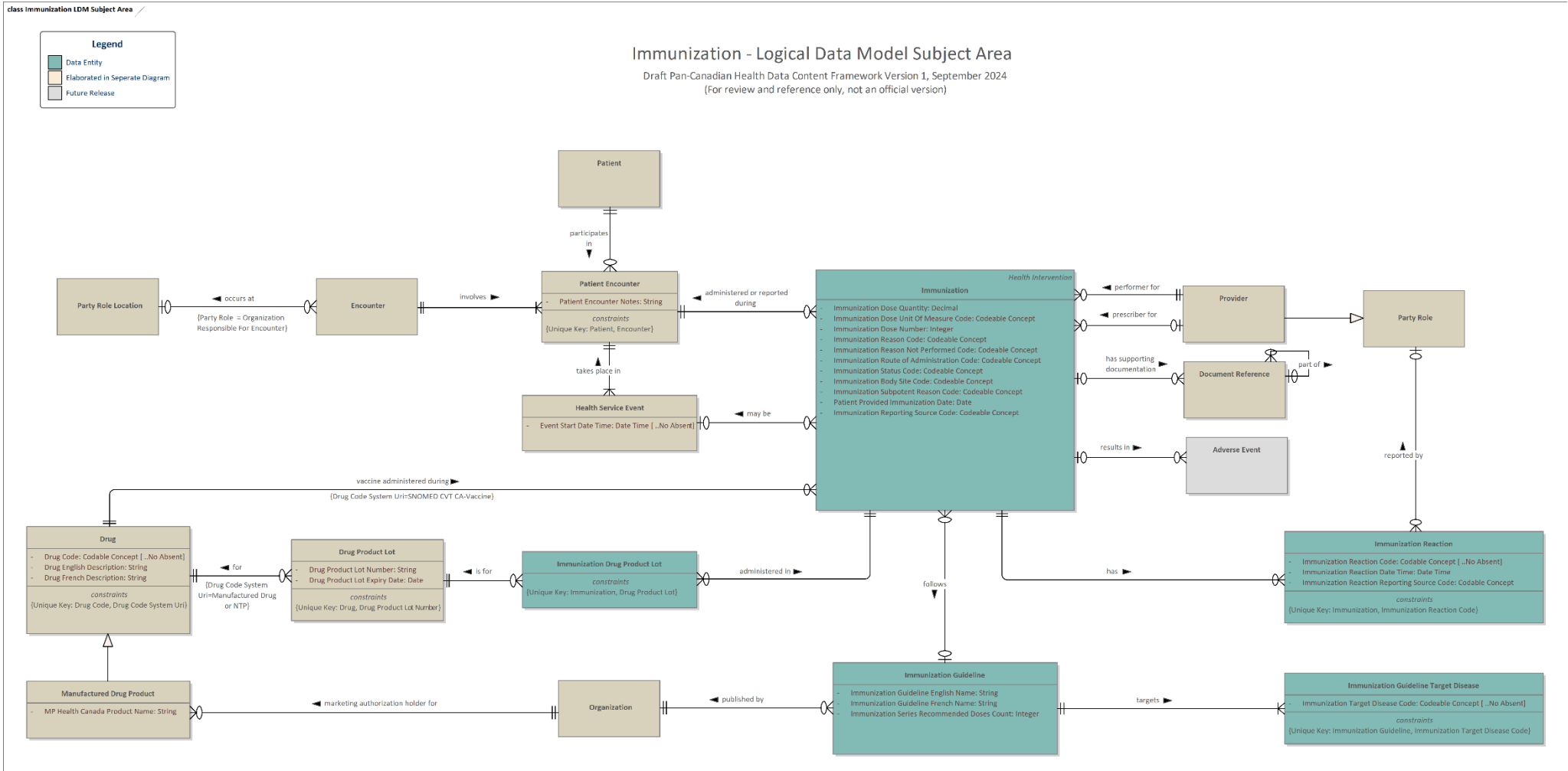


Health Service Event - Logical Data Model Subject Area

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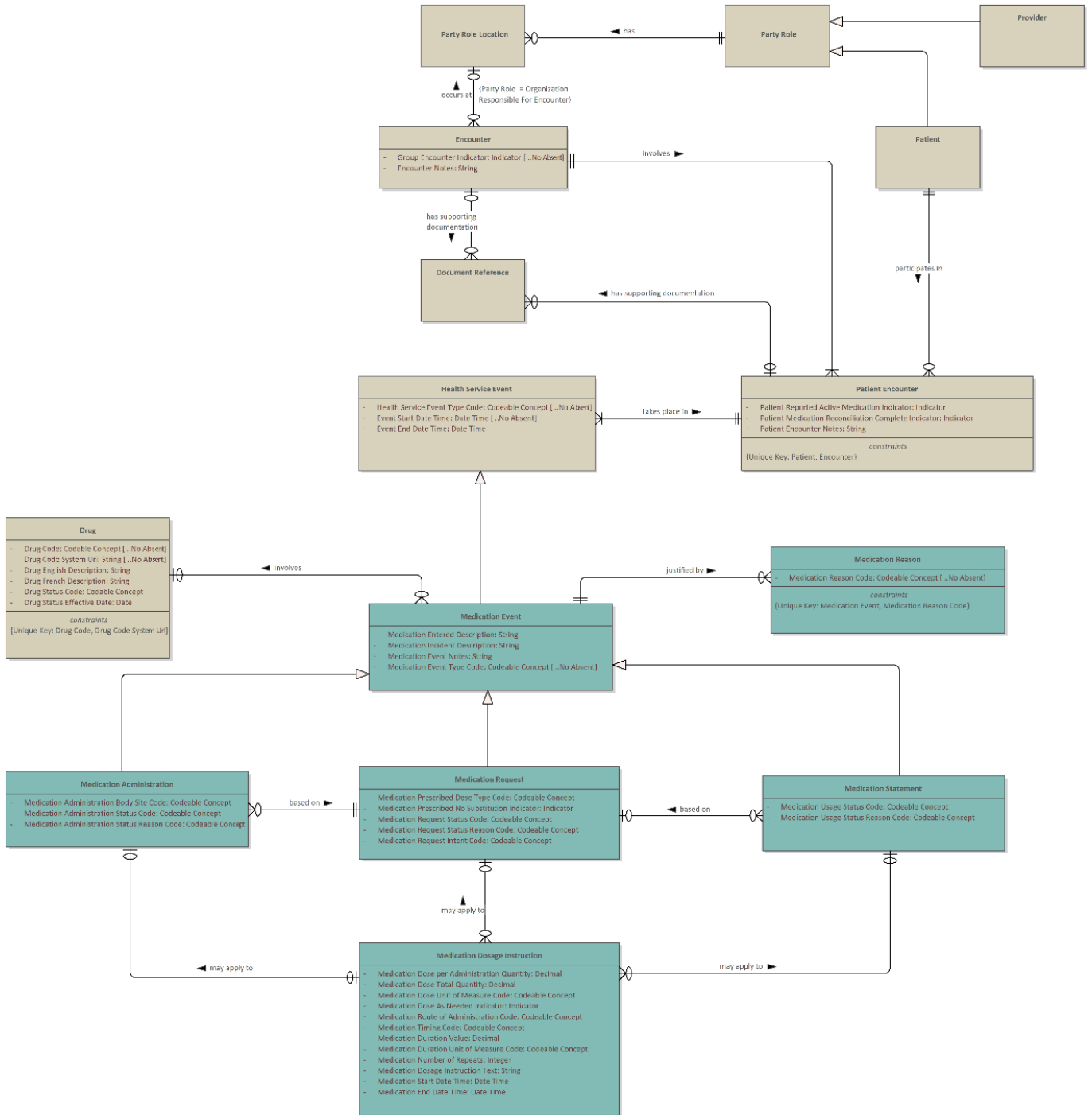


class Medication Request, Statement, Administration LDM Subject Area

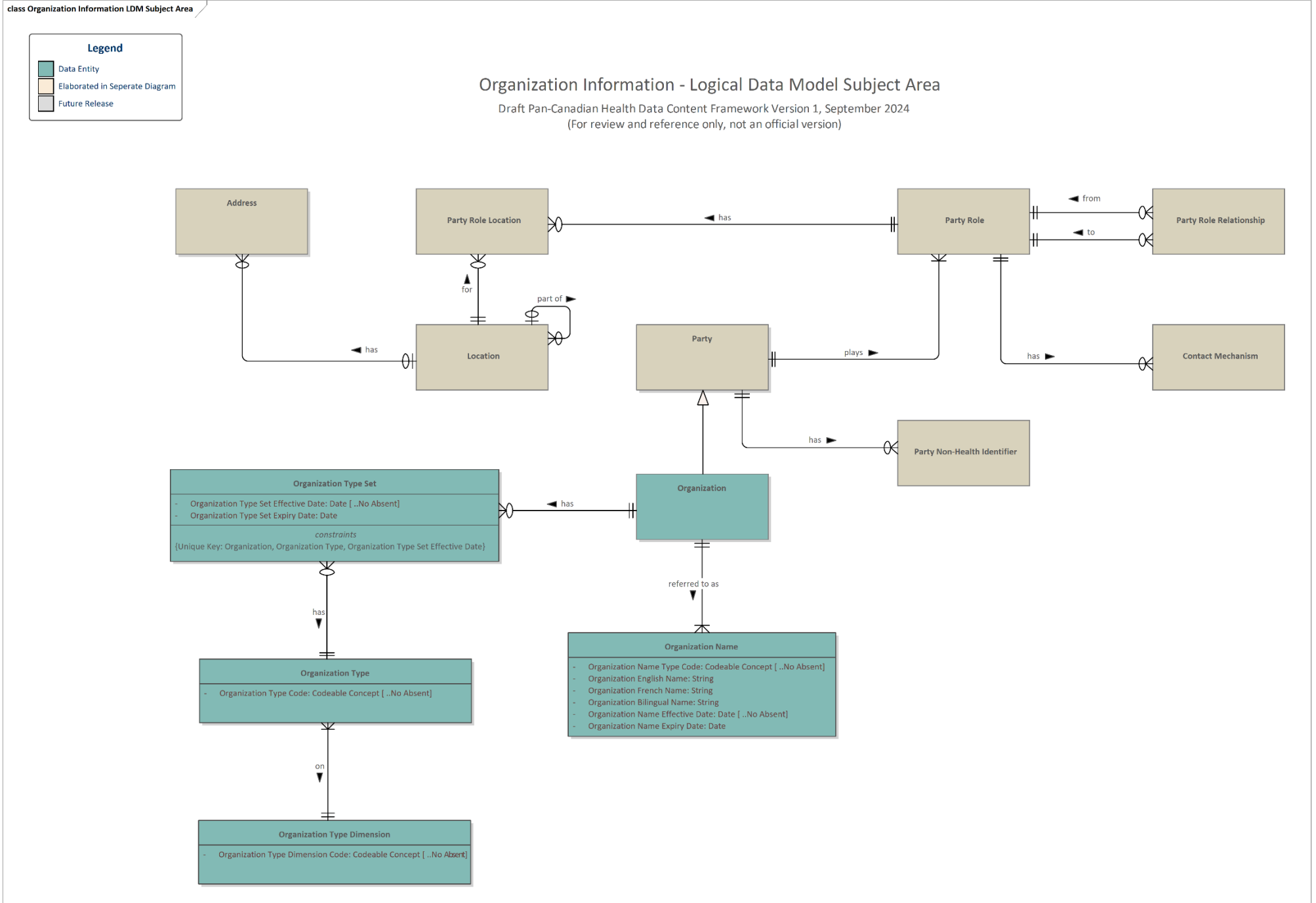


Medication Request, Statement, Administration - Logical Data Model Subject Area

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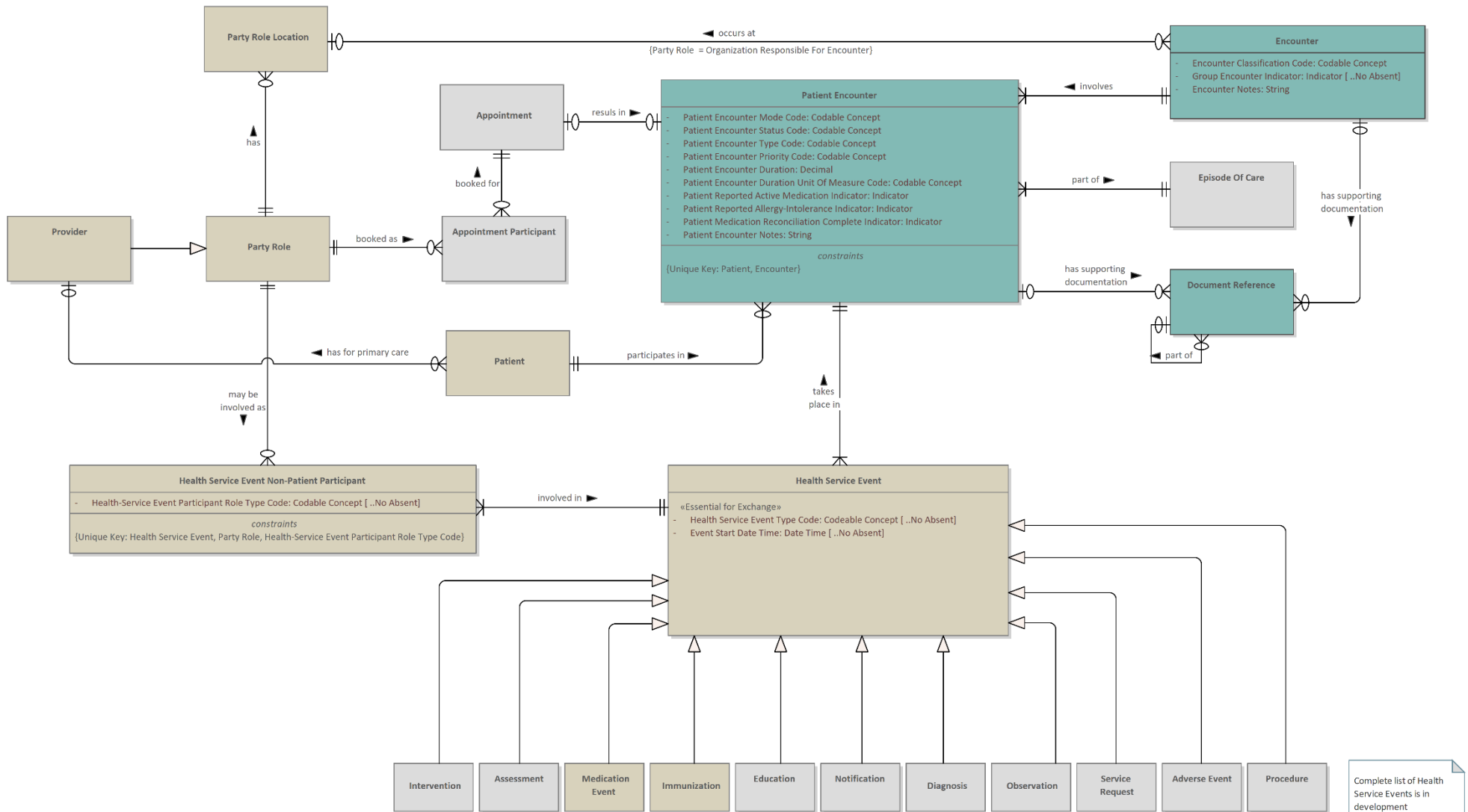


class Patient Encounter LDM Subject Area



Patient Encounter - Logical Data Model Subject Area

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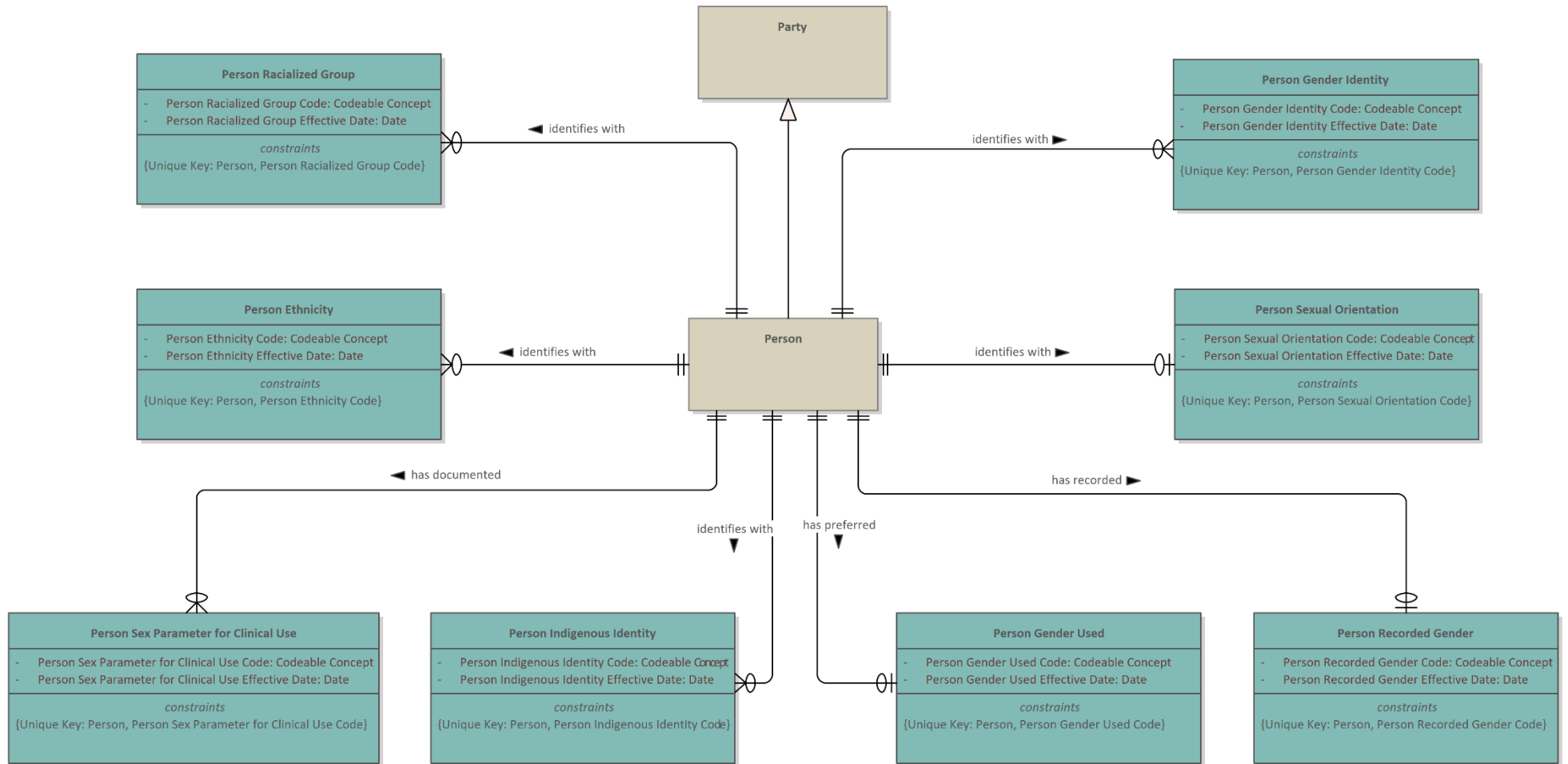


class Social Determinants of Health Concepts LDM Subject Area



Social Determinants of Health Concepts - Logical Data Model Subject Area

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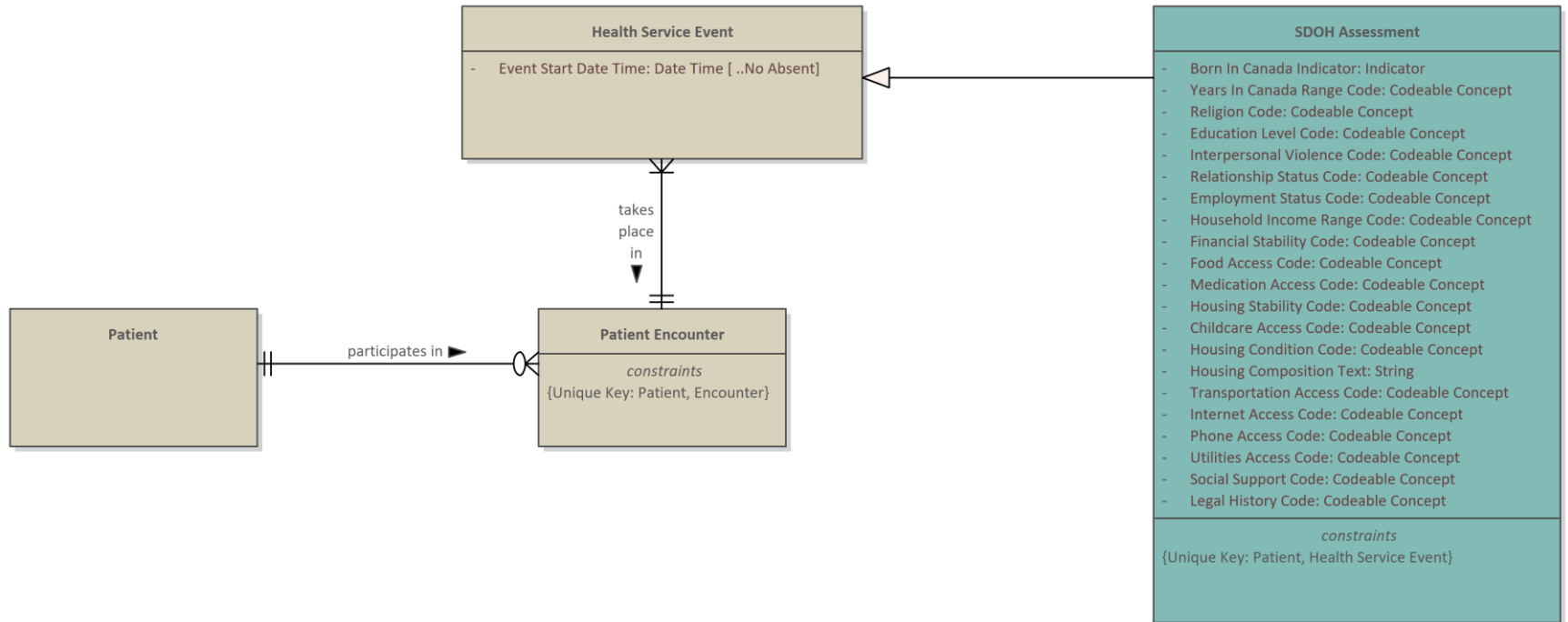


class Social Determinants of Health Assessment LDM Subject Area



Social Determinants of Health Assessment - Logical Data Model Subject Area

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CIHI Ottawa

495 Richmond Road
Suite 600
Ottawa, Ont.
K2A 4H6
613-241-7860

CIHI Toronto

4110 Yonge Street
Suite 300
Toronto, Ont.
M2P 2B7
416-481-2002

CIHI Victoria

880 Douglas Street
Suite 600
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 2B7
250-220-4100

CIHI Montréal

1010 Sherbrooke Street West
Suite 511
Montréal, Que.
H3A 2R7
514-842-2226

cihi.ca

