



COLLEGE of AMERICAN
PATHOLOGISTS

The CAP Cancer Protocols

Harnessing Structured Data to Optimize Cancer Surveillance

Samantha Spencer, MD
Senior Director, Standards & Guidelines

July 29, 2024

Agenda

- **Background**
- **Successes**
- **Challenges and opportunities**
- **Future direction**

What are the CAP Cancer Protocols?



Protocol for the Examination of Specimens From Patients With Primary Carcinoma of the Colon and Rectum

Version: Colon Rectum 4.0.1.0 Protocol Posting Date: June 2017
Includes pTNM requirements from the 8th Edition, AJCC Staging Manual

For accreditation purposes, this protocol should be used for the following procedures AND tumor types:

Procedure	Description
Colectomy	Includes specimens designated total, partial, or segmental resection
Rectal Resection	Includes specimens designated low anterior resection or abdominoperineal resection
Tumor Type	Description
Carcinoma	Invasive carcinomas including small cell and large cell (poorly differentiated) neuroendocrine carcinoma

This protocol is NOT required for accreditation purposes for the following:

Procedure
Excisional biopsy (polypectomy)
Local excision (transanal disk excision)
Primary resection specimen with no residual cancer (eg, following neoadjuvant therapy)
Cytologic specimens

The following tumor types should NOT be reported using this protocol:

Tumor Type
Well-differentiated neuroendocrine tumors (consider the Colorectal NET protocol)
Lymphoma (consider the Hodgkin or non-Hodgkin Lymphoma protocol)
Sarcoma (consider the Soft Tissue protocol)

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With guidance from the CAP Cancer and CAP Pathology Electronic Reporting Committees.
* Denotes primary author. All other contributing authors are listed alphabetically.

CAP Approved

Gastrointestinal • Colon and Rectum 4.0.1.0
Resection

Surgical Pathology Cancer Case Summary

Protocol posting date: June 2017

COLON AND RECTUM: Resection, Including Transanal Disk Excision of Rectal Neoplasms

Note: This case summary is recommended for reporting transanal disc excision specimens, but is not required for accreditation purposes.

Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.

Procedure

- ☐ Right hemicolectomy
- ☐ Transverse colectomy
- ☐ Left hemicolectomy
- ☐ Sigmoidectomy
- ☐ Low anterior resection
- ☐ Total abdominal colectomy
- ☐ Abdominoperineal resection
- ☐ Transanal disk excision (local excision)
- ☐ Endoscopic mucosal resection
- ☐ Other (specify): _____
- ☐ Not specified

Tumor Site (select all that apply) (Note A)

- ☐ Cecum
- ☐ Ileocecal valve
- ☐ Right (ascending) colon
- ☐ Hepatic flexure
- ☐ Transverse colon
- ☐ Splenic flexure
- ☐ Left (descending) colon
- ☐ Sigmoid colon
- ☐ Rectosigmoid
- ☐ Rectum
- ☐ Colon, not otherwise specified
- ☐ Cannot be determined (explain): _____

+ Tumor Location (applicable only to rectal primaries) (Note A)

- ☐ Entirely above the anterior peritoneal reflection
- ☐ Entirely below the anterior peritoneal reflection
- ☐ Straddles the anterior peritoneal reflection
- ☐ Not specified

Tumor Size

Greatest dimension (centimeters): ____ cm
+ Additional dimensions (centimeters): ____ x ____ cm
____ Cannot be determined (explain): _____

Macroscopic Tumor Perforation (Note H)

- ☐ Not identified
- ☐ Present
- ☐ Cannot be determined

Version	Previous Version
3.0.0)	2016 (v3.2.0.0)
3.0.0)	2013 (v3.1.0.2)
7	
Version	Previous Version
3.1.0)	2013 (v3.2.0.1)
3.1.0)	
7	
Version	Previous Version
3.0.1)	2017 (v4.0.0.0)
3.0.1)	2016 (v3.4.0.0)
17#)	2013 (v3.3.0.0)
218	
Version	Previous Version
3.1.0)	2017 (v4.0.0.0)
3.1.0)	2016 (v3.4.0.0)
17#)	2013 (v3.3.0.0)
218	
Version	Previous Version
3.0.1)	2017 (v4.0.0.0)
3.0.1)	2016 (v3.6.0.0)
17#)	2016 (v3.5.0.0)
218	
Version	Previous Version
3.0.0)	2016 (v3.2.0.0)
3.0.0)	2013 (v3.1.1.2)
7	
Version	Previous Version
3.0.0)	2013 (v3.1.0.2)
3.0.0)	
7	
Version	Previous Version
3.1.0)	2017 (v4.0.0.1)
3.1.0)	2014 (v3.1.0.0)
17#)	
218	
Version	Previous Version
3.0.0)	2011 (v3.1.0.0)
3.0.0)	
7	

Search

Guidelines Publications



Protocols Public Period

ent period for 14 draft new and protocols ends June 10, 2019. s will be posted in August 2019

is and submit your comments

CAP's vision is to improve patient outcomes through structured cancer pathology reporting solutions.

Vision

Improve patient outcomes by producing structured reporting solutions for pathology and cancer, primarily by leveraging industry leading standards that facilitate quality clinical practice and real-world applications of diagnostic data.

Value

The CAP leverages pathologist expertise and best practices to help clinicians make more informed, expedient, and cost-effective treatment decisions. This mitigates risks, supports pathologist workflow, aids laboratory compliance, ensures data fidelity for downstream use and public health, and most importantly, improves patient outcomes.

Who uses the CAP eCP, and why?

- Pathologists use the CAP electronic Cancer Protocols (eCP) to help them report on their definitive cancer resections, as well as some biopsies.
- Why use the eCP versus other cancer reporting mechanisms?



The screenshot shows the CAP eCP form with sections for SPECIMEN and TUMOR. The TUMOR section includes fields for Tumor Site, Histologic Type, Histologic Grade, and Tumor Size. A note at the bottom states: "Note: The size of the invasive carcinoma should take into consideration the gross findings correlated with the microscopic examination. If multiple foci of invasion are present, the size listed is the size of the largest contiguous area of invasion. The size of multiple invasive carcinomas should not be added together. The size does not include adjacent ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS). For any carcinoma larger than 1.0 mm but less than 1.5 mm, the size should not be rounded down to 1.0 mm, but rather rounded up to 2.0 mm, to ensure that the tumor is not misclassified as pT1a. Exceptions to the size rule: 1) Two histologically similar carcinomas are within 5.0 mm of each other, measure from outer edges of the tumor. For staging purposes radiologic findings can be used for pT category. 2) If there has been a prior core needle biopsy or excisional biopsy showing a larger area of invasion than in the excisional specimen, the largest dimension of the invasive carcinoma in the prior specimen should be used for T classification, if known. This also applies if the entire tumor has been removed by prior biopsy. The size of the largest foci in the two specimens should not be added together. 3) If there has been prior resectional treatment and no invasive carcinoma is present, the cancer is classified as ypTis if there is residual DCIS and ypT0 if there is no remaining carcinoma. A checklist is not required if no cancer is present in the specimen." Below this note are checkboxes for "No residual invasive carcinoma", "Microinvasion only (≤ 1 mm)", and "Greatest dimension of largest invasive focus > 1 mm (specify exact measurement in millimeters (mm))". There are also fields for "Additional Dimension in Millimeters (mm)" and "Size of largest invasive focus cannot be determined (explain)".



The icon shows a document with the text "SMART FORMS" and two interlocking gears, symbolizing automation and smart forms.

SYNOPTIC SUMMARY

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF THE COLON OR RECTUM

Procedure: Right hemicolectomy

Tumor

Tumor Site: Right (ascending colon)

Histologic Type: Adenocarcinoma

Histologic Grade: Grade 2 (Moderately differentiated)

Tumor Extension: Invades submucosa

Tumor Size: 0.4 cm

Macroscopic Perforation: Not identified

Small Vessel (Lymphatic) Invasion: Not identified

Large Vessel (Venous) Invasion: Not identified

Perineural Invasion: Not identified

Tumor Budding Score: Intermediate (5-9)

Originating Polyp Type: Tubular adenoma

Treatment Effect Score: No known neoadjuvant therapy



The photo shows a female doctor in a white lab coat with a stethoscope, smiling and talking to an elderly female patient.

Data entry form integrates into pathologist workflow within AP-LIS system or middleware = **one-stop shopping**

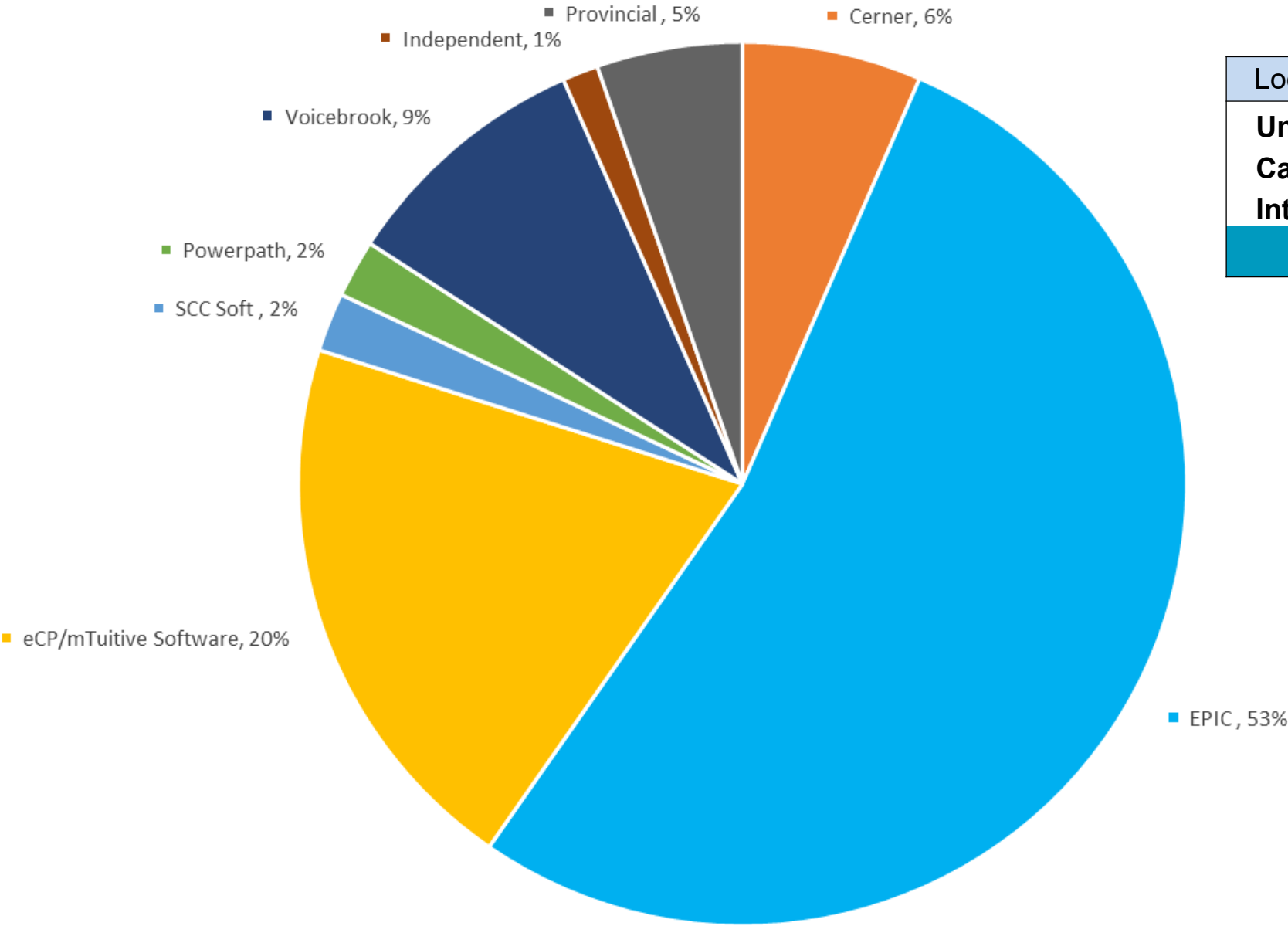
eCP acts as a **“smart” form**, with **auto-updates, CDS**, and a **completeness checker**, aiding in **accreditation compliance**

Goal of **synoptic report** is to make it easy for the clinician to find the **key pieces** of data needed for patient care

eCP generates structured data for **analytics & quality assurance**, helping improve processes and **patient care**

CAP eCP User Assessment July 2024

eCP User Laboratory Information Systems (LIS) and Middleware

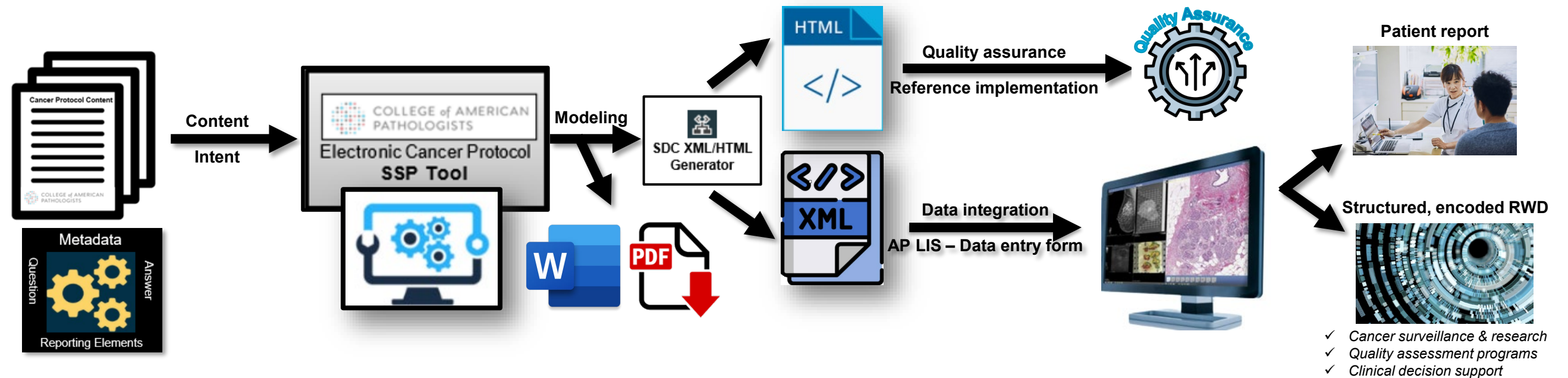


Location	# of Pathologists
United States	7456
Canada	920
International	39
Total	8415

Agenda

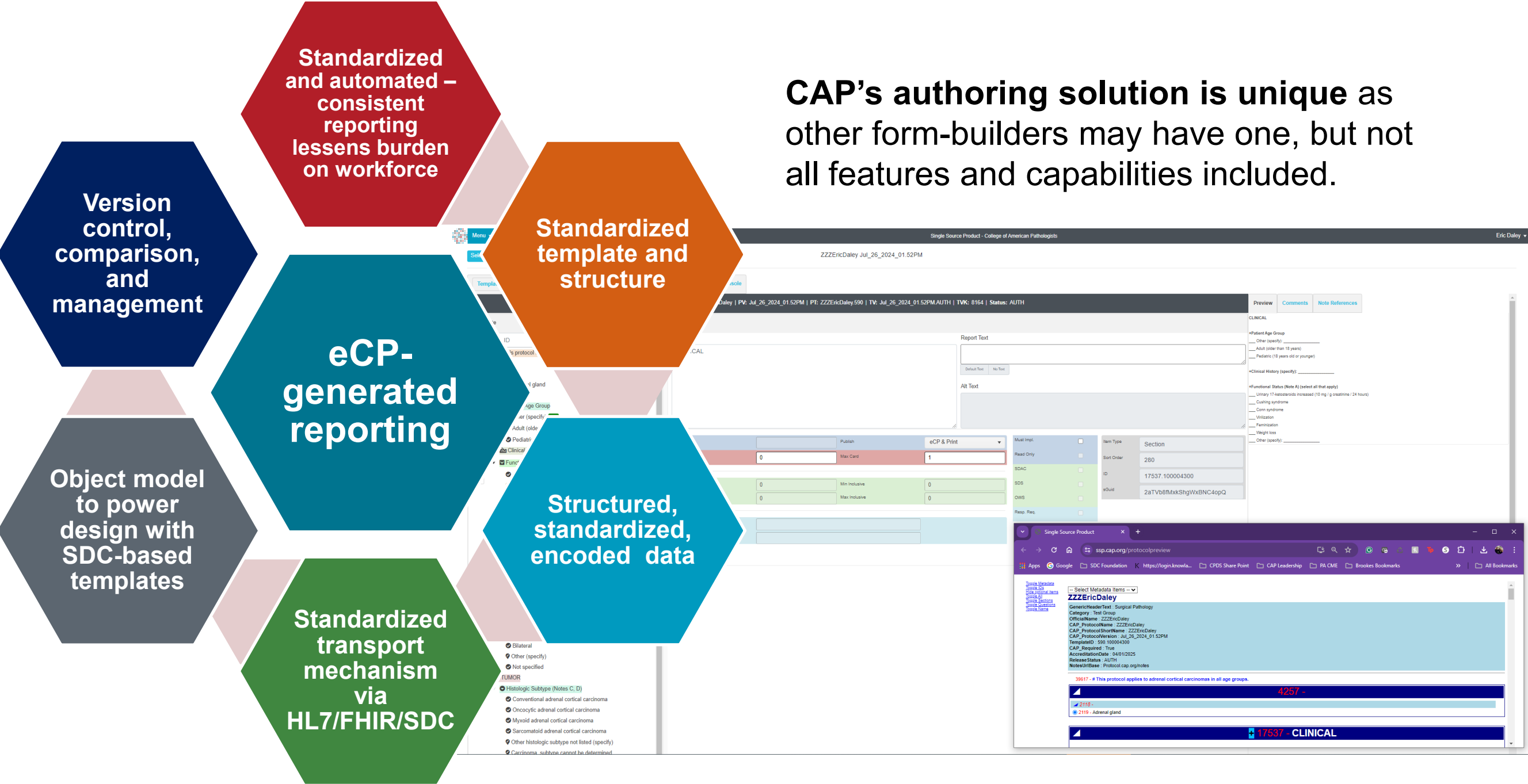
- **Background**
- **Successes**
- **Challenges and opportunities**
- **Future direction**

The CAP has a robust content generation program.



- CAP-developed web-based tool used to model and edit Cancer Protocols and other pathology data entry forms. Incorporates Structured Data Capture SDC Object Model.
- SDC is used to create standardized, interoperable question and answer sets (QAS) as structured data in data entry forms, as well as to map these data elements to SNOMED CT and ICD-O.
- PDF and Microsoft Word® documents are posted on www.cap.org/cancerprotocols.
- HTML is used for reference implementation/QA; XML files are integrated into vendor/LIS systems.
- CAP is engaging with organizations who are potentially interested in using this authoring tool.

A content management system now for the future.



Vendor implementation is a key to success.

Vendor engagement

- Clinical domain success working collaboratively and bidirectionally with vendors
- Monthly touch base meetings with yearly onsite, review implementation issues and feedback
- Opportunities for members to serve on advisory boards

Validation

- Vendor implementation validation sessions at least yearly, with ad hoc assessments as needed
- Self-audit vendor prework with live testing in vendor systems
- Scorecard report, pass-fail, work together on planning fixes and enhancements to support needs

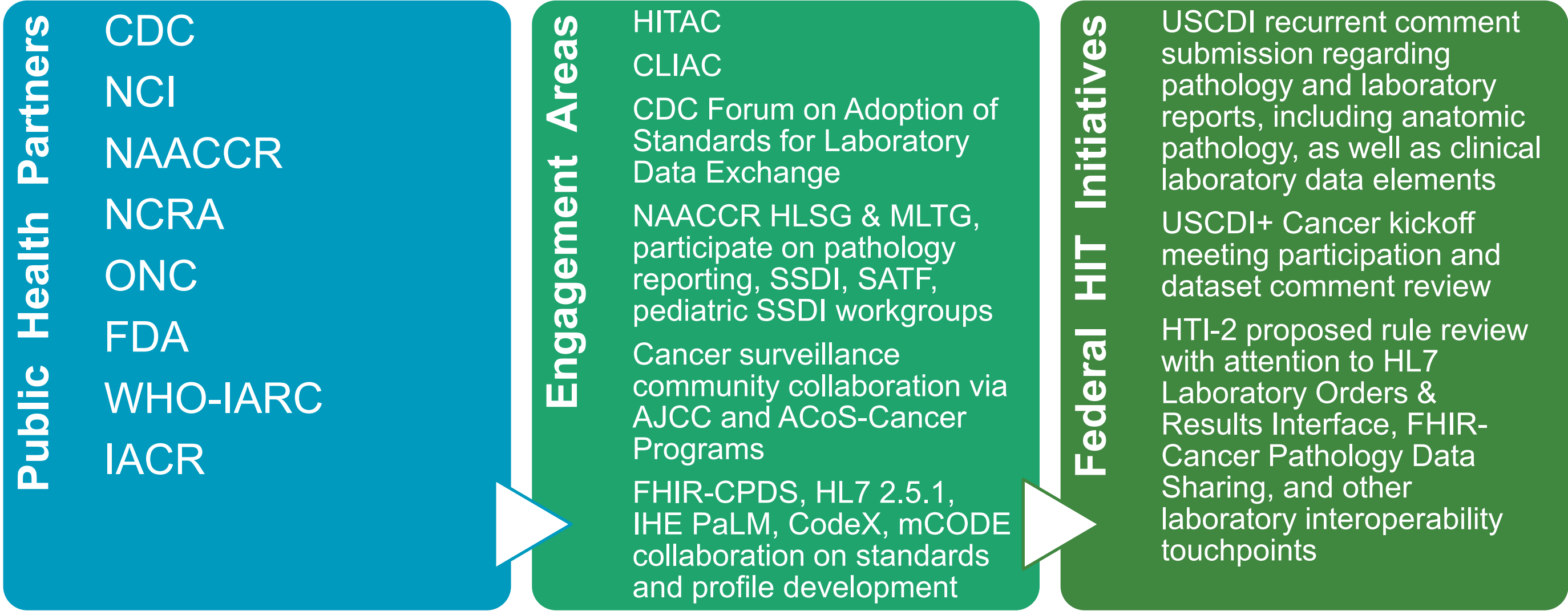
Data structure & transmission

- NAACCR Vol V onboarding, Epic and other vendors can support and reproducible
- Message validation
- IHE/HL7/FHIR Connectathons

Next steps

- Leverage interface engine to auto-validate vendor HL7 / FHIR messages
- Normalize standardized, structured data transmission to public health and downstream data uses
- Ensure public health entities can automatically receive and parse data without transformation

Engaging with public health and SDOs is core to achieving our goals and realizing our vision.



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Much data in the clinical record is not structured or standardized.

1st: 617-983-7114 Fax: 617-983-7736

Patient Name: Med. Rec. #: 8/19/1971 (Age: 37) F
DOB: 8/19/1971 (Age: 37) F
Physician(s): Atul Gawande, M.D.

Service: Surgical Day Care
Financial #: 23626254

Specimen #: S08-10104
Date of Service: 10/24/2008
Received: 10/24/2008
Signout: 10/31/2008 17:41

Surgical Pathology Report

Specimen(s) Received
A: Thyroid, right lobe resection

Final Diagnosis
A: Thyroid, right lobe resection:
1. Papillary carcinoma, two foci: follicular variant (1.7 cm, mid thyroid) and classical variant (0.2 cm, lower pole).
2. No lymphatic/vascular invasion is present.
3. The carcinoma is confined to the thyroid.
4. The inked margins are free of tumor.

Diagnosis Comment:
AJCC: pT1 NX MX

MP /10/31/2008 16:51
** Report Electronically Signed Out **
Tad Wlczorek, M.D.

Clinical History
Thyroid nodule R.

Intraoperative Consultation
Touch preparation:
ATP: Thyroid, right lobe resection: Numerous microfollicles, some with cells showing nuclear pallor and grooves; defer to permanents.

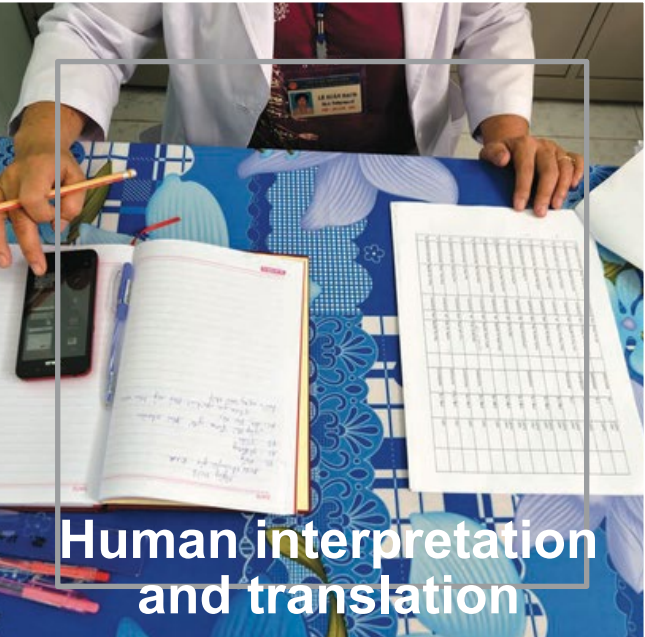
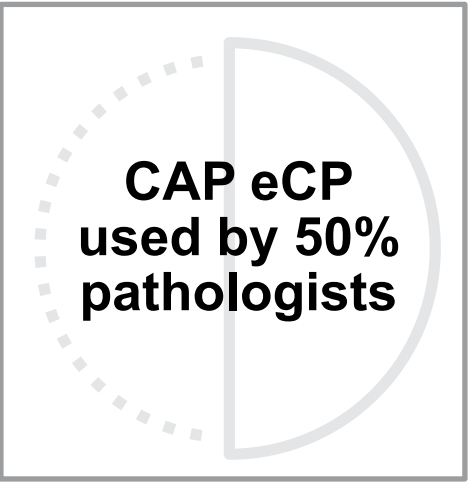
PM /10/24/2008 14:39

Gross Description
A: Thyroid, right lobe resection: Received fresh is an 8 gram hemithyroidectomy specimen 4.2 x 2.5 x 1.3 cm, marked with a single suture on the upper pole. Located in the mid pole is a 1.7 x 1.4 x 1.3 cm tan well circumscribed fleshy nodule abutting the inked margin. The nodule is submitted entirely in cassettes A1-A3. In the lower pole is a 0.2 cm white nodule, which is bisected and submitted entirely in cassette A4. Representative thyroid parenchyma is submitted in A5. Away from the two nodules the remaining thyroid parenchyma is beefy red and grossly normal.

TW/PM/10/24/2008 14:39

Synoptic or narrative reports

Reported: 10/31/2008 End of Report Page 1 of 1



Standardized data encoding is still a challenge.

ICD-O and Cancer PathCHART activities

Lineage	ProtocolGroup	SiteText	ParText	Chary	Type	VisibleText	Exact WHO Term (if different)	Comments	WHO Term via ICD-O-3 Code	Link to WHO BB Page
160 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	38560	A Answer	Undifferentiated carcinoma NOS	Carcinoma, undifferentiated, NOS	Should use Carcinoma, NOS per Rich	8020/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
161 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	38581	A Answer	Carcinoma, subtype cannot be determined	Carcinoma, NOS		8010/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
162 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	38582	AA Answer - FIB	Mixed epithelial borderline tumor (specify types and percentages)				https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
163 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	38555	AA Answer - FIB	Mixed carcinoma (specify types and percentages)	Mixed cell adenocarcinoma		8323/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
164 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	38561	A Answer	Carcinosarcoma (malignant mixed Mullerian tumor)	Carcinosarcoma NOS	Related terminology not recommended: malignant mixed Mullerian tumour	9980/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
165 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	348273	A Answer	Endometrioid stromal sarcoma, low grade	Endometrioid stromal sarcoma, low grade		8931/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
166 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	348274	A Answer	Endometrioid stromal sarcoma, high grade	Endometrioid stromal sarcoma, high grade		8930/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
167 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	348275	A Answer	Adenosarcoma	Adenosarcoma		8933/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
168 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	348276	A Answer	Leiomyosarcoma	Leiomyosarcoma NOS		8890/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
169 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	348277	A Answer	Fibrosarcoma	Fibrosarcoma NOS		8810/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
170 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	38584	A Answer	Granulosa cell tumor, adult type	Adult granulosa cell tumor of ovary		8620/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
171 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	38583	A Answer	Granulosa cell tumor, juvenile type	Granulosa cell tumour, juvenile		8622/1	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
172 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	348278	A Answer	Steroid cell tumor	Steroid cell tumor NOS	There are 2 types of steroid cell tumors: NOS (8670/0) and malignant (8670/3). Protocol should specify which of these is correct, likely malignant, so check with SMEs.	8670/0	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
173 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	348279	A Answer	Sertoli-Leydig cell tumor	Sertoli-Leydig cell tumor NOS	Subtypes: Sertoli-Leydig cell tumour, well differentiated; Sertoli-Leydig cell tumour, moderately differentiated; Sertoli-Leydig cell tumour, poorly differentiated; Sertoli-Leydig cell tumour, retiform	8631/1	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
174 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	38590	AA Answer - FIB	Other sex cord-stromal tumor (specify type)				https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
175 Ovary FT Perit.Bx.Res	Gynecologic	TUMOR	Histologic Type	38569	A Answer	Immature teratoma	Immature teratoma NOS		9080/3	https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100
						Teratoma with malignant transformation				https://tumourclassification.iaarc.who.int/chaptercontent/36/100

SNOMED CT mapping initiative with UNMC and CDC

Lineage	ParText	Ckey	Type	Question C-key	Answer C-key	SCT Question	SCT Answer (if appropriate to be SCT)
55 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Tumor Weight	378866	AA Answer -	Other (specify)	378866	371503009 Neoplasm weight (observable entity)	
56 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Tumor Weight	57476	AA Answer -	Cannot be determined	40496	371503009 Neoplasm weight (observable entity)	1156316003 Cannot be determined (qualifier value)
57 Adrenal.Bx.Res	TUMOR	354224	QQQ Questio	Site(s) Involved by Direct Tumor Extension	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	
58 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	50695	A Answer	Confined to adrenal cortex without invasion thro	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	68594002 Adrenal cortex structure (body structure)
59 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	39537	A Answer	Invades into or through the adrenal capsule	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	84562008 Structure of adrenal capsule (body structure)
60 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	56752	A Answer	Kidney	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	64033007 Kidney structure (body structure)
61 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	57748	A Answer	Pancreas	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	15776009 Pancreatic structure (body structure)
62 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	41409	A Answer	Liver	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	10200004 Liver structure (body structure)
63 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	42305	A Answer	Spleen	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	78961009 Splenic structure (body structure)
64 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	58229	A Answer	Diaphragm	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	5798000 Diaphragm structure (body structure)
65 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	46218	A Answer	Stomach	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	69695003 Stomach structure (body structure)
66 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	45594	AA Answer -	Other adjacent organs and structures (specify)	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	
67 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	51911	AA Answer -	Cannot be determined	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	1156316003 Cannot be determined (qualifier value)
68 Adrenal.Bx.Res	Site(s) Involved by Di	44186	A Answer	Not applicable (no evidence of primary tumor)	354224	1155810009 Anatomic location directly invaded by primary malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland (observable entity)	385432009 Not applicable (qualifier value)

Mapping to standardized terminologies/ ontologies...

- Decreases total potential points of translation
- Fewer handoffs
- Less opportunity for misinterpretation, mismatch, error = **High fidelity data**

Why mapping vs. hard coding?

- UIDs needed for structured data independent of other release cycles and coding systems for usability and sustainability of reporting products in clinical domain
- Dedicated resources to ensuring keeping codes up to date and providing to our end users

If we have all this now, what challenges remain?

- Versioning
- Multiple sources vs. central hub
- Change management on national scale
- Strategic resourcing
- Carrot vs. stick

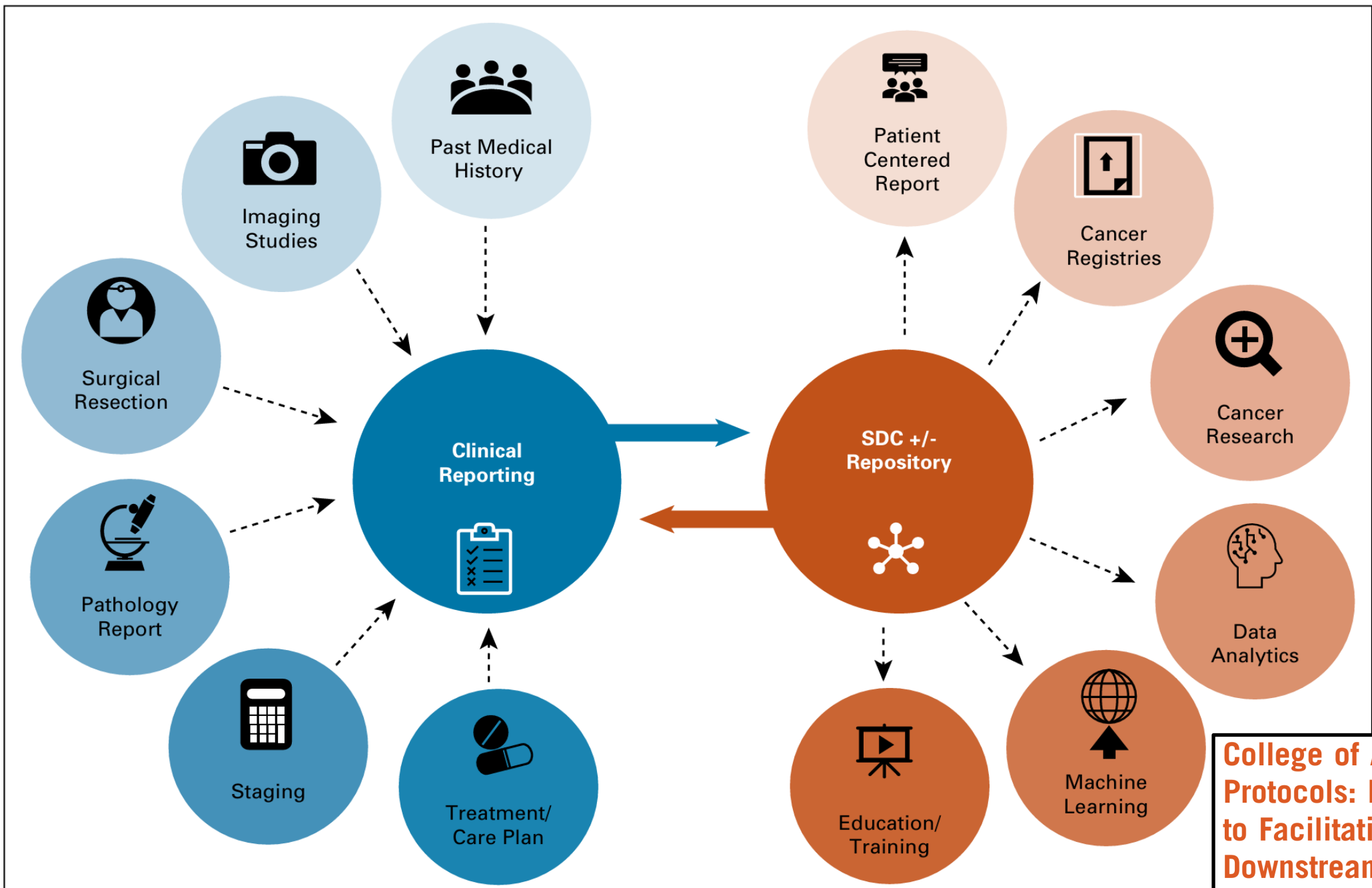
Data transmission to public health is not currently standardized.



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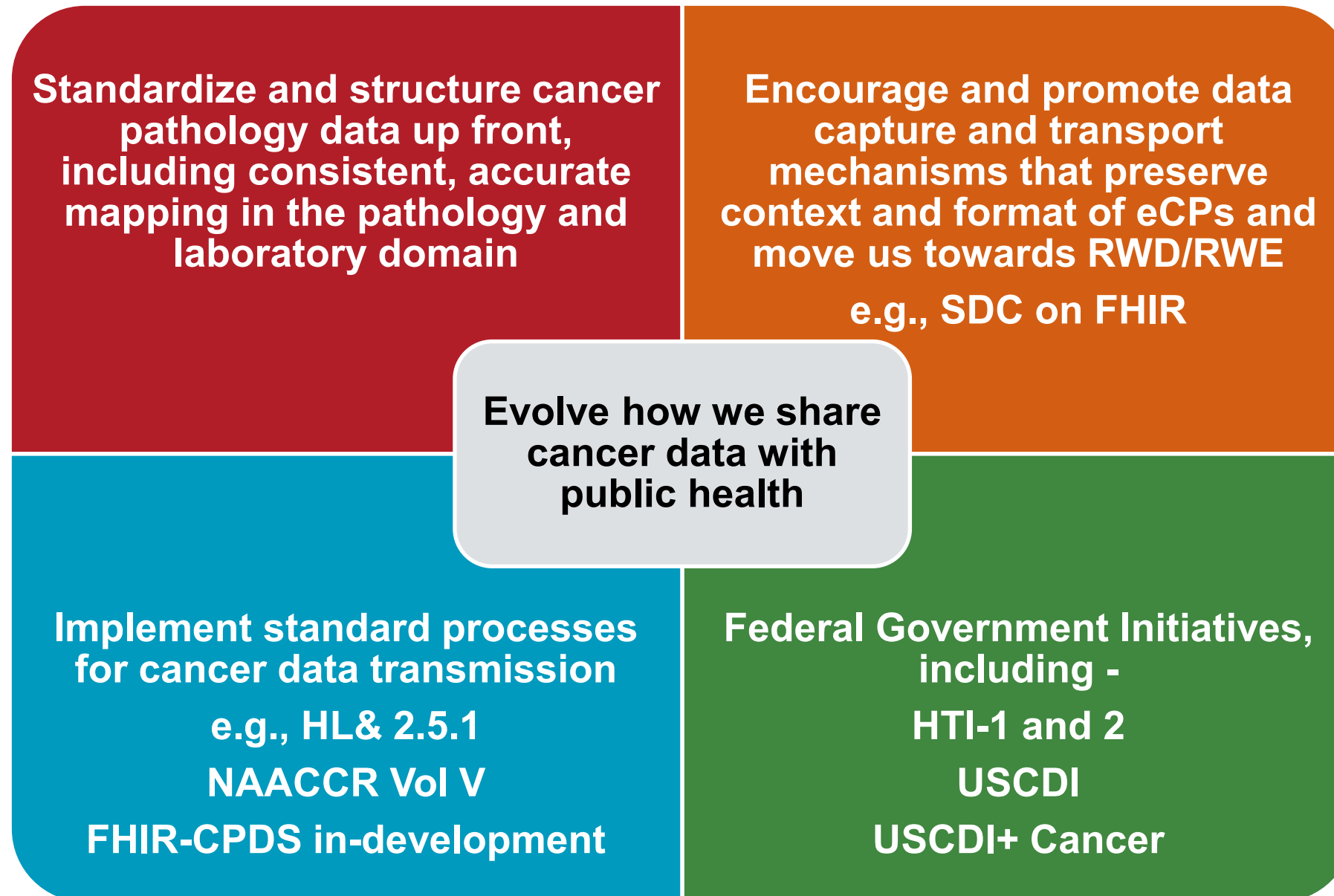
Vision of an interoperable future of cancer data exchange



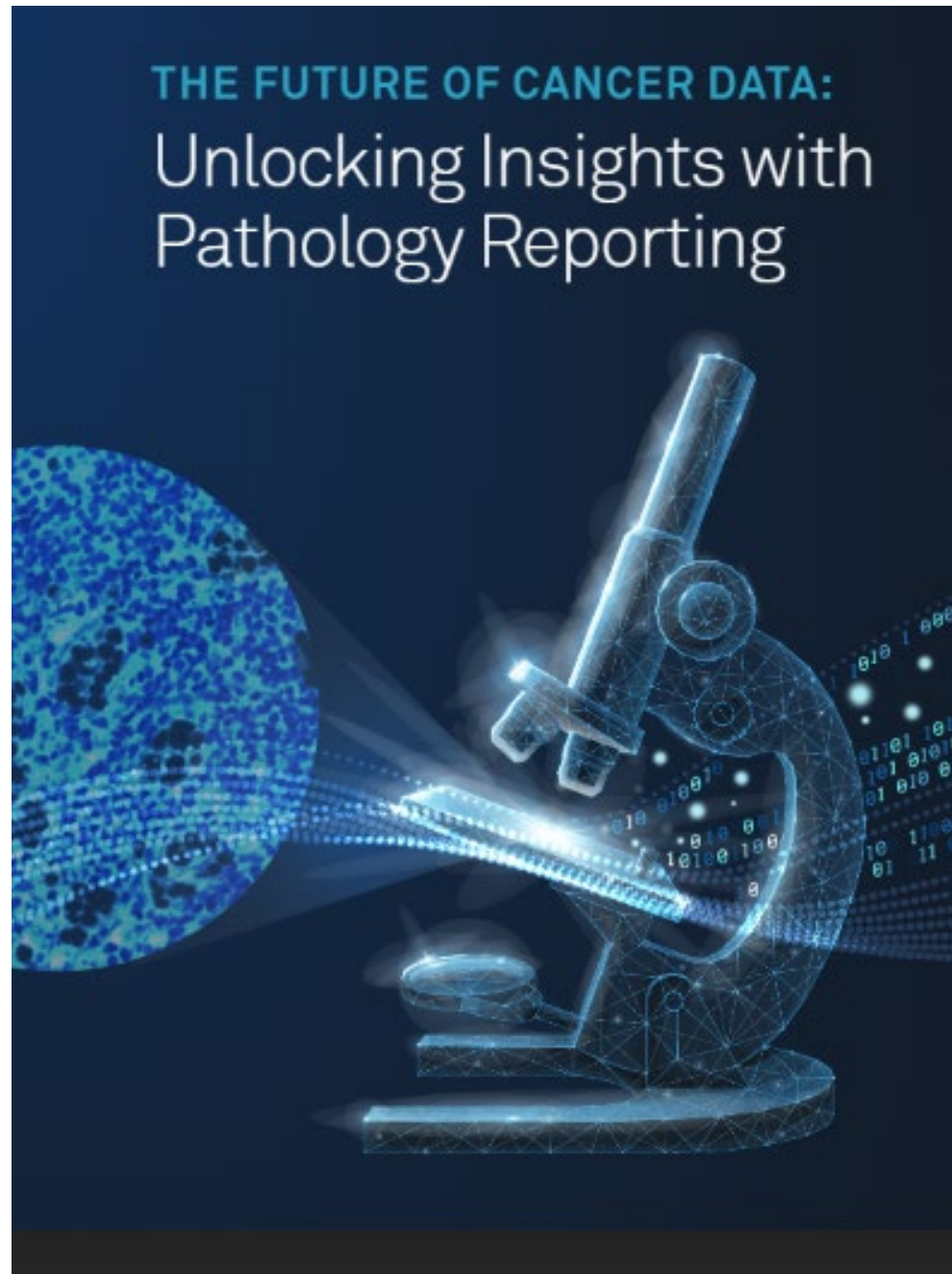
College of American Pathologists Cancer Protocols: From Optimizing Cancer Patient Care to Facilitating Interoperable Reporting and Downstream Data Use

Vanda F. Torous, MD¹; Ross W. Simpson, MD²; Jyoti P. Balani, MD³; Alexander S. Baras, MD, PhD⁴; Michael A. Berman, MD⁵; George G. Birdsong, MD⁶; Giovanna A. Giannico, MD⁷; Gladell P. Paner, MD⁸; Jason R. Pettus, MD⁹; Zack Sessions, PharmD¹⁰; S. Joseph Sirintrapun, MD¹¹; John R. Srigley, MD¹²; and Samantha Spencer, MD¹⁰

How do we get there?



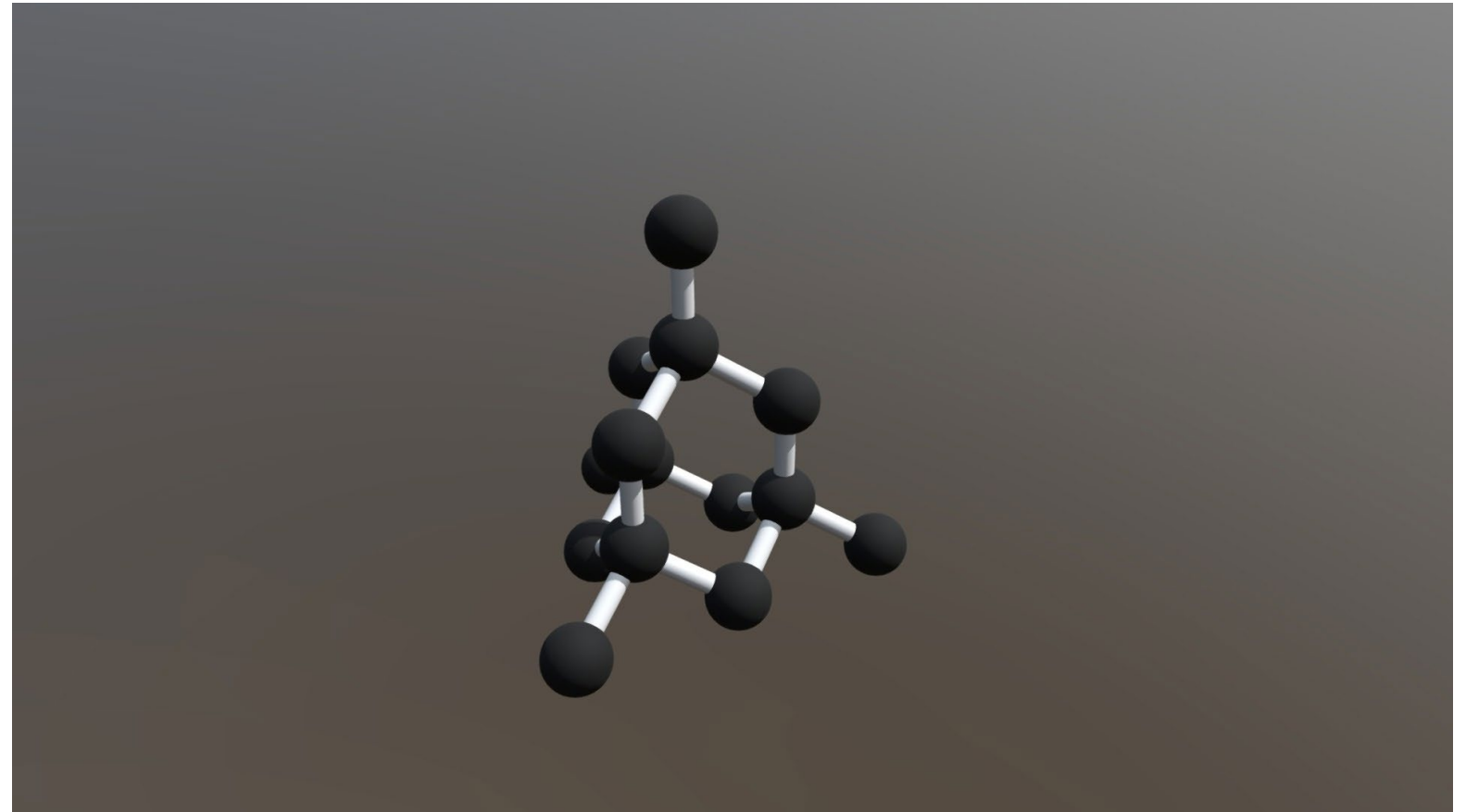
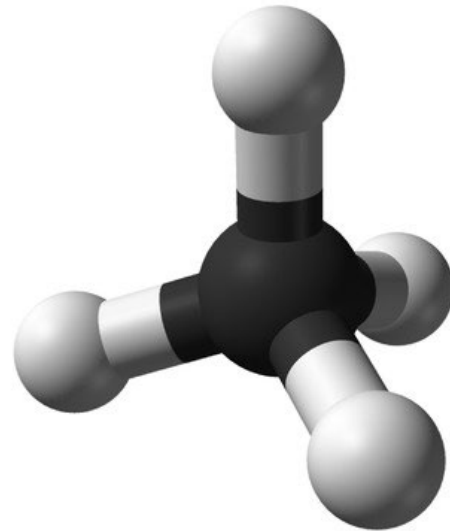
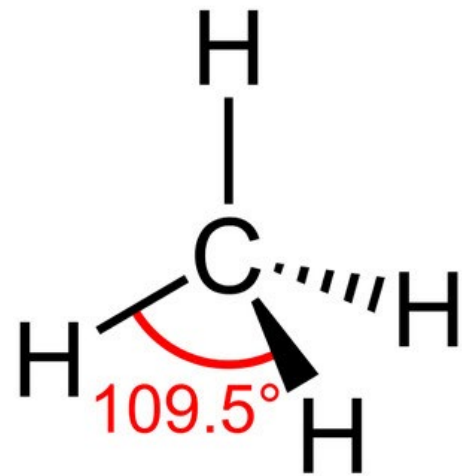
Education and training are essential to success.



Cancer Data Champions Summit 10/6/2023

- ❑ Explored opportunities to shape the future of cancer pathology data use
- ❑ Identified new frontiers that will be shaped by using cancer pathology data
- ❑ Discovered how quality improvement programs can utilize synoptic reporting within and across laboratories
- ❑ Discussed how cancer pathology reporting to adds dimension to public health efforts
- ❑ Featured customer/user best practices
- ❑ 70+ attendees across pathology, oncology, surgery, public health, research, registrars, and industry
- ❑ [Ongoing webinar series](#) presents an opportunity to explore challenges and opportunities for interoperability across multiple healthcare disciplines and domains
- ❑ Next Cancer Data Summit @ CAP '24 in Las Vegas 10/18/24

Carbon – the great connector



Key takeaways and needs for long-term success

Education & training

- Coordinated efforts across all healthcare domains
- Multidisciplinary meetings and webinar series like Cancer Data Champions, National Academies workshops
- Leverage ground-level training for future-facing mindset
- Open workgroup participation cross-functionally and to new in practice

Implementation focus

- Agreement on common goals and solutions
- Translate clinical successes into public health domain
- SDC everywhere via consistent use of standardized transmissions
- Vendor engagement promoting usability, functionality, and interoperability via LIS
- Public health and clinical organization partnerships, e.g., Cancer PathCHART, SNOMED CT

Support for adoption

- Public health, SDO, and clinical organization alignment for content and release schedules
- Standards framework support for laboratories and vendors
- We should reach for the stars, BUT we can't let the stars blind us to the path – the HOW matters to support successful coordination and execution
- Change management and support for this at a national level

CONNECTION - COMMON VISION - COLLABORATION - COORDINATION - CONTRIBUTION



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