7/20/2017 - Cooking with CQL: or How to Incorporate CQL into HQMF for eCQMs Qs&As – SESSION 16

Measure Representation

Q. What is the recommendation for measure developers regarding the QDM length of stay attribute? Should they use the attribute or should they indicate length of stay using CQL expression without invoking the attribute?
A. Because length of stay is an attribute of the encounter, it doesn't work for defining the overall length of stay in the case where we want to consider the encounter immediately prior to the emergency department visit. Using the CQL expression is more general and it allows you to handle that case transparently. The length of stay attribute of Encounter, Performed can be used to define the time from admission to discharge for a specific encounter. However, if the measure developer needs to express the time from admission to a previous, but related encounter (i.e., an Emergency Department visit), the length of stay attribute would not be sufficient and a CQL expression provides such ability. Note, that to determine the arrival time at the previous Emergency Department visit, the measure needs to address the Encounter, Performed location attribute.

Q. What does the hospitalization function mean?
A. The hospitalization function has been considered as an approach to identifying an encounter plus the time immediately prior to the emergency department visit. In a lot of the current hospital measures, they are looking for that pattern because there is an inpatient encounter with an immediately prior ED visit. In previous logic, those cases had to be considered independently. The hospitalization function gives us the duration, the interval from the start to the end of either the encounter or the immediately prior ED visit. It collapses that logic for determining what the overall duration of the hospitalization is, and by using this function, then we pass an encounter and it tells us from admission to discharge. Note, to determine arrival time within the hospitalization function requires use of the Encounter, Performed location attribute.

Q. In the hospitalization function where it says, "if null," does it mean that if there is no ED encounter, it will start counting from the inpatient encounter?
A. Yes.

Q. Why are we using diagnosis to represent allergy instead of allergy intolerance?
A. The QDM supports the description of an allergy/intolerance to provide more detailed information than is available in a Diagnosis alone. However, this flexibility means there is the potential for underlying systems to provide the data as both a Diagnosis or as an Allergy/Intolerance. Measure authors can express the allergy in both ways to cover this possibility. For example, to address the type of reaction that meets the measure criteria, the measure can indicate "Diagnosis: Anaphylactic reaction to penicillin" using a precoordinated SNOMED CT concept, or use a post-coordinated approach "Allergy/Intolerance: Penicillin (type: anaphylaxis)." The latter approach may be more consistent with the way an allergy or intolerance is managed using non-measure transactions in HL7 V2, V3, and FHIR, except that FHIR uses the metadata element "reaction" to address the QDM attribute "type."

Tooling and Implementation

Q. Is the hospitalization function posted on the Wiki? Is Hospitalization function in a library on MAT 5.3 staging?
A. Yes, it is. Specifically, https://github.com/esacinc/CQL-Formatting-and-Usage-Wiki/blob/master/Source/Cooking%20With%20CQL/14/22_CMS72_HospitalizationApproach.cql#L58
In addition, the function is available as part of the MAT Global Common Functions library in the MAT.

Q. Can the Length of Stay function be included in the MAT tool?
A. The ability to do this is currently in the MAT by creating a standalone CQL library and include this function within it and call it out as needed.