2/22/2018 - Cooking with CQL: or How to Incorporate CQL into HQMF for eCQMs Qs&As

Measure Representation
Q. Is the Hepatitis B immunizations procedure a value set or definition?
A. It is a definition. Value set declarations are defined in the CQL header and are local identifiers for value sets stored in a terminology service like the Value Set Authority Center. Definitions are defined in the body of the CQL library and specify chunks of logic that can be used throughout the library or within the measure as population criteria.

Q. Did you have to use Coalesce since you are using two different data types or are the attributes the same?
A. Coalesce is used when the attributes differ to give preference to a particular value if it is present. For Procedure, Performed, we have both an authorDatetime and a relevantPeriod, but for Immunization, Administered, we only have an authorDatetime, so the Coalesce in this case is saying "Use the start of the relevantPeriod if it's present, otherwise use the authorDatetime."

Q. Is there a preferred pattern to use if not using Coalesce?
A. It depends how often the definition needs to be used in subsequent logic. If the definition is used often, and the Coalesce pattern is required for each usage, then it makes sense to change the definition so that it returns the same kinds of tuples, so that subsequent references can just reference a single attribute and not have to use the Coalesce pattern.