Supporting Data Overview

July 29, 2016

Supporting data describes the attributes (e.g., minimum age, earliest recommended age, and preferable vaccine type) necessary and specific values (e.g., schedule-specific, antigen series-specific, and dose-specific) required to support evaluation and forecasting as described by the Logic Specification.

To reduce complexity, the supporting data elements are divided into logical components. Each focuses on one aspect of the more complex processes of evaluation and forecasting.

Simply put, supporting data is akin to configuration data which feeds the system. It is representative of the ACIP recommendations and completed either at dose level (one per dose per series) or schedule level (one for entire ACIP schedule - e.g., live virus supporting data and coded observation supporting data). The supporting data is able to be modified separately from the logic.

The supporting data was separated from the logic definition in order to reduce and ease the maintenance of the logic as new and updated ACIP recommendations are released. The supporting data values are expected to change on a regular basis in conjunction with new and updated ACIP recommendations. It is not expected that the logic definition will change as rapidly. If supporting data are ultimately implemented as some form of a data store (e.g., database), new and updated recommendations can be reflected through simple supporting data changes. In essence, supporting data can be thought of as configuration parameters and values.

Supporting Data is provided in Excel and XML formats with the Excel format being the source of truth should any differences between the two formats exist.