



# The TransCelerate / CDISC Digital Data Flow Project: Practical Electronic Study Designs

PHUSE US Connect 2024 (DS02)

Dave Iberson-Hurst, CDISC Product Owner  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2024





# Meet the Speaker

## Dave Ibersen-Hurst

**Title:** Partner

**Organization:** d4k, Copenhagen

*Dave has over 40 years' experience across several industries with the last 20 years spent in the pharmaceutical industry combining his technology and software development experience with clinical data standards.*

*During this time, he has served as the CDISC CTO, worked on, and led, several CDISC teams, presented in many forums in Europe, the US, and elsewhere across the globe. He has worked closely with the FDA, EMA, HL7, ISO, and other standards organizations and was was a member of CDISC's Blue Ribbon commission. He is currently the CDISC Product Owner for the Digital Data Flow project.*

*He is a partner at data4knowledge in Copenhagen and is focused on getting greater value and utility from clinical trial data.*



# Disclaimer and Disclosures

- *The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of CDISC.*
- *On contract to CDISC for the DDF work*



# Abstract

Over the last two years CDISC, in collaboration with Transcelerate, have been working on the Digital Data Flow (DDF) initiative. This initiative aims to *“modernize clinical trials by enabling a digital workflow to allow for the automated creation of study assets and configuration of study systems to support clinical trial execution.”*. The work is focused on the protocol and associated study designs and manifests itself in a new CDISC standard, the Unified Study Definitions Model (USDM), and an open-source implementation of the USDM known as the Study Definitions Repository (SDR).

Now coming to the end of the second phase, with the third phase about to commence, the DDF project delivers a new standard that allows for the digitization of study designs and the foundation of the digital protocol.

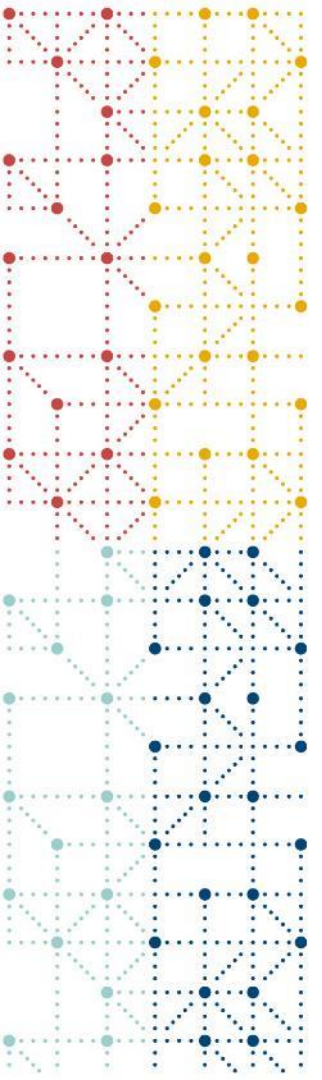
This presentation will detail:

- The work performed in phases one and two.
- The work planned as part of phase three.
- The use cases supported by the model.
- How the model/standard can enable protocol creation, automated data flow and interoperability between systems.
- How the model/standard can be deployed and implemented today.



# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Digital Data Flow – The Project
3. Use Cases and Adoption
4. Phase Three: USDM Meets M11
5. Summary



# Introduction



# TransCelerate Digital Data Flow (DDF) DISCOVERY DAY 2023

ALOFT Hotel Boston Seaport District

Summer Ballroom

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

\*\* Invite-only, face-to-face event \*\*



*Envision a Future with a Digitized Clinical Study Protocol with Automated Data Flow and Streamlined Analytics Insights*

## From Documents to Data: Write Once, Read Many Times

### Digitized Protocols

Enabling the use of technologies that identify and assemble study elements using a common, industry standard digital language allows industry to move to digital protocols

### Advanced Analytics

Enabling the use of advanced analytics, such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to improve study designs



### Connectivity of Data and Processes

Enabling traceability, automated flow of content to key clinical documents, and automation to clinical & operational systems (e.g. EDC, CTMS)

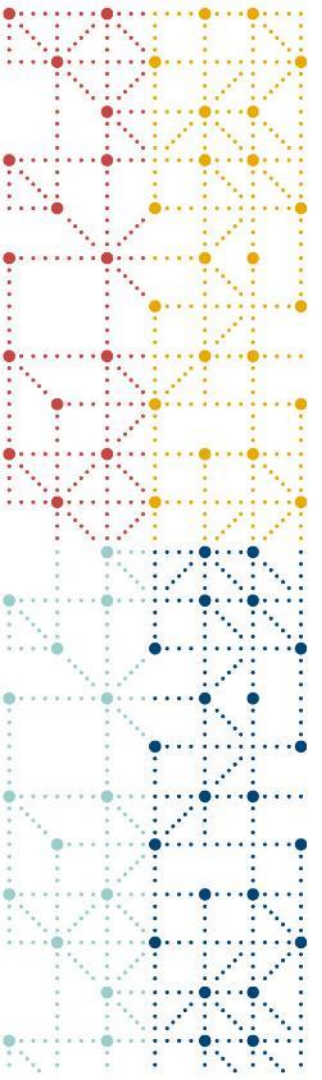
### Open & Flexible Solution

A functioning, example solution to enable exchange of protocol info between systems that is vendor agnostic, flexible, and provided in open source



“Art of the Possible”





# Digital Data Flow - The Project

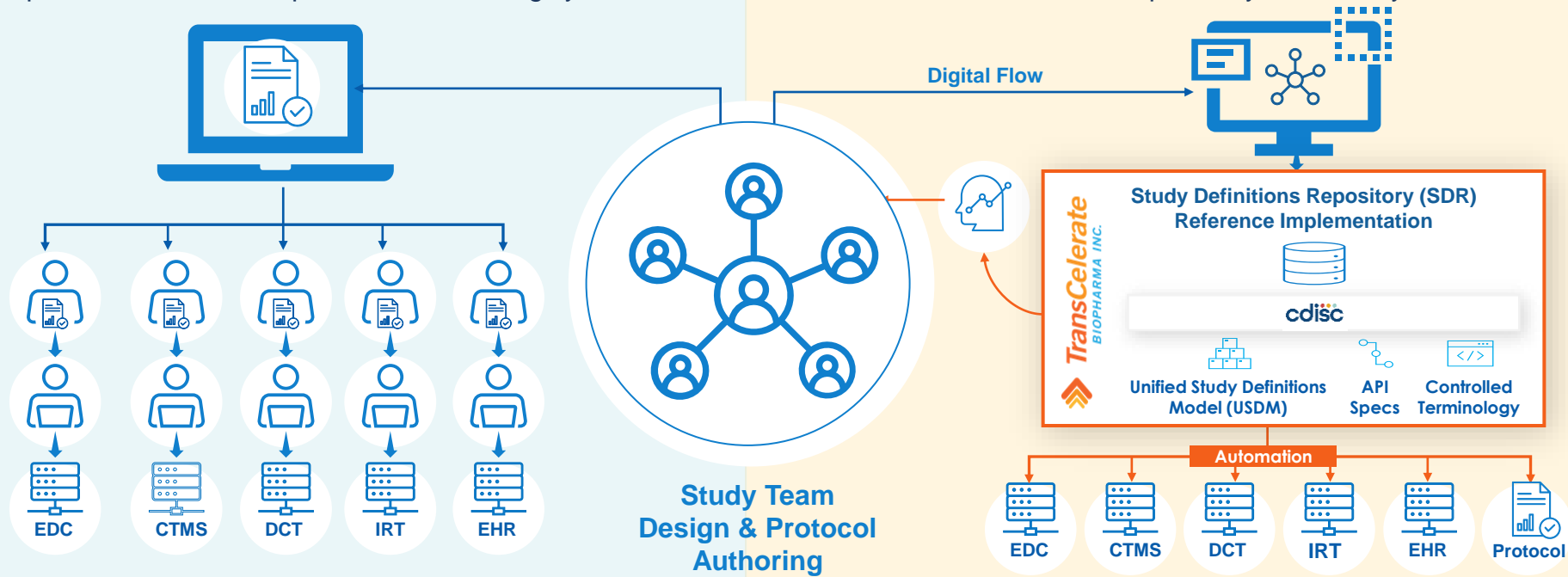


# TransCelerate Digital Data Flow (DDF) Ambition

*Write Once, Read Many*

**TODAY:** Document-based paradigm for protocol creation, interpretation, and transcription into consuming systems

**TOMORROW:** Digital paradigm for protocol creation, with fully automated data flow and interoperability between systems



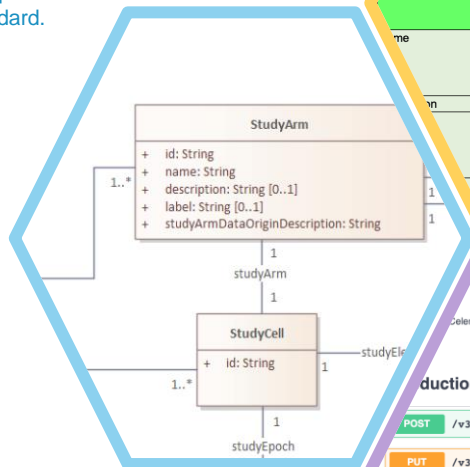
# The USDM Standard

## CDISC Controlled Terminology

Provides further semantics, complementing the UML model. Includes the definition of classes and attributes along with the definition of value sets

## Logical Model

The UML logical model (a class diagram) that provides the basis for the USDM standard.



## API Specification

Provides the means to exchange a single study between machines using a JSON API

C174447	Study Arm
C170984	Study Arm Name
C93728	Study Arm Description
C188827	Study Arm Type
C188828	Study Arm Data Origin Description
C188829	Study Arm Data Origin Type
CNEW	Study Arm Label
C71738	Study Epoch
C93825	Study Epoch Name
C93824	Study Epoch Description
C188830	Study Epoch Type
CNEW	Study Epoch Label

### API for DDF

2.4 Provisional (0.39)

Accelerate Digital Data Flow (DDF) Study Definitions Repository API.

**Introduction** Routes that form the production specification.

- POST** /v3/studyDefinitions Create a study
- PUT** /v3/studyDefinitions/{studyId} Update a study
- GET** /v3/studyDefinitions/{studyId} Return a study
- GET** /v3/studyDefinitions/{studyId}/history Returns the study history
- GET** /v3/studyDesigns Study designs for a study

Expand all objects

```









studyArms": [
  {
    "id": "StudyArm_1",
    "name": "Placebo",
    "label": "",
    "description": "Placebo",
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      "id": "Code_61",
      "code": "C174268",
      "codeSystem": "http://www.cdisc.org",
      "codeSystemVersion": "2022-12-16",
      "decode": "Placebo Comparator Arm"
    },
    "studyArmDataOriginDescription": "Data collected within study",
    "dataOriginType": {
      "id": "Code_62",
      "code": "C188866",
      "codeSystem": "http://www.cdisc.org",
      "codeSystemVersion": "2022-12-16",
      "decode": "Data Generated Within Study"
    }
  },
  {
    "id": "StudyArm_2",
    "name": "Xanomeline Low Dose",
    "label": "",
    "description": "Active Substance",
    "type": {
      "id": "Code_63",
      "code": "C174267",
      "codeSystem": "http://www.cdisc.org",
      "codeSystemVersion": "2022-12-16",
      "decode": "Data Generated Within Study"
    }
  }
]

```

**Examples**  
Example protocols implemented in the USDM with associated JSON files and visualisations

**Implementation Guide**  
Guidance on using the USDM model and ensuring conformance with the standard

# USDM Status

-  Unified Study Definitions Model (USDM)
-  Application Programming Interface (API) Specification
-  CDISC Controlled Terminology
-  Reference Architecture Conformance Tests
-  Essential Users Stories
-  Architecture Principles
-  Test Files
-  Implementation Guide

**PHASE ONE**  
*July 2021 – July 2022*

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**PHASE TWO**  
*Oct 2022 – June 2023*

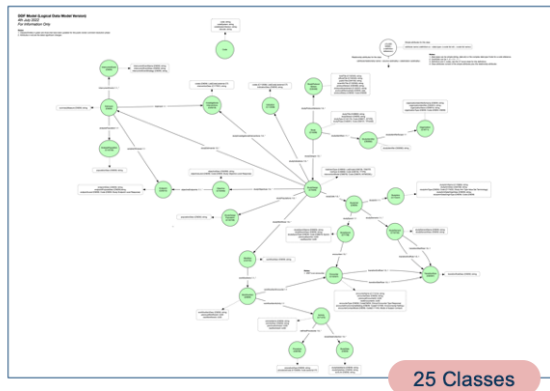
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Still applicable</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**PHASE THREE**  
*July 2023 – Apr 2024*

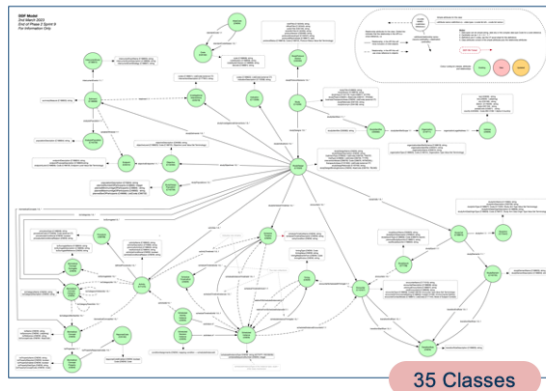
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Being replaced by CDISC CORE rules</i>
<i>Still applicable</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# CDISC DDF / USDM: Phases One, Two and Three

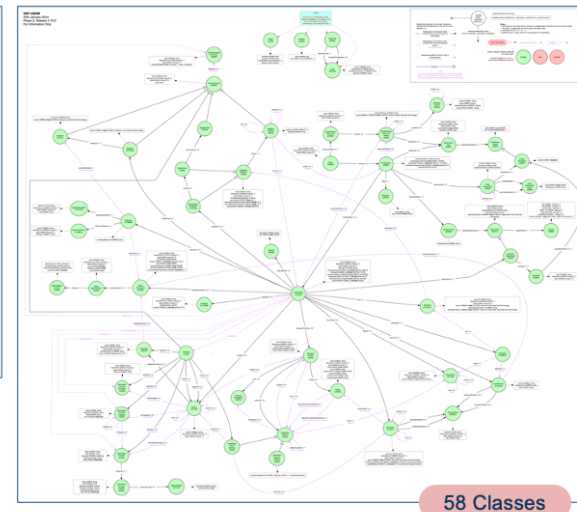
Phase One



Phase Two



Phase Three



- Solid foundation
- The protocol document was an external entity into which the structured content could be exported

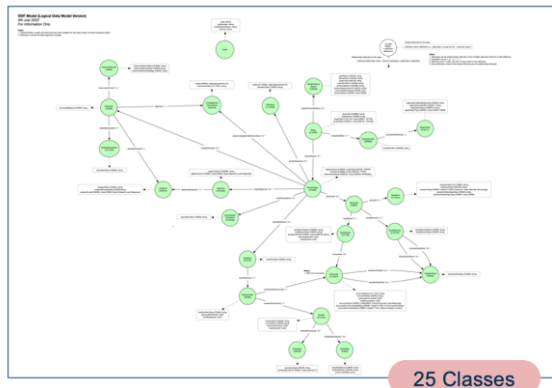
- Focused on the structured elements of the protocol, e.g. the Schedule of Activities (SoA) & Biomedical Concepts (BCs)
- The protocol document still an external entity

- Now contains structured and unstructured elements
- The entire protocol document can be held within the USDM
- Allows for the protocol document to be generated from the model

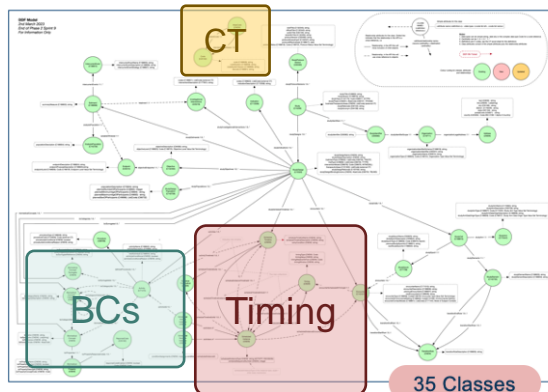


# CDISC DDF / USDM: Phases One, Two and Three

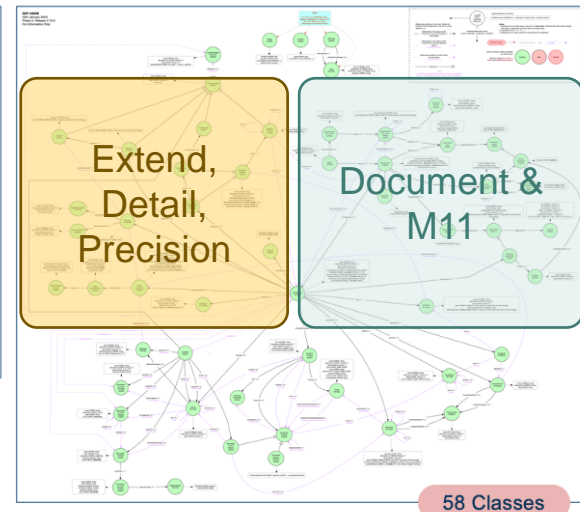
Phase One



Phase Two



Phase Three

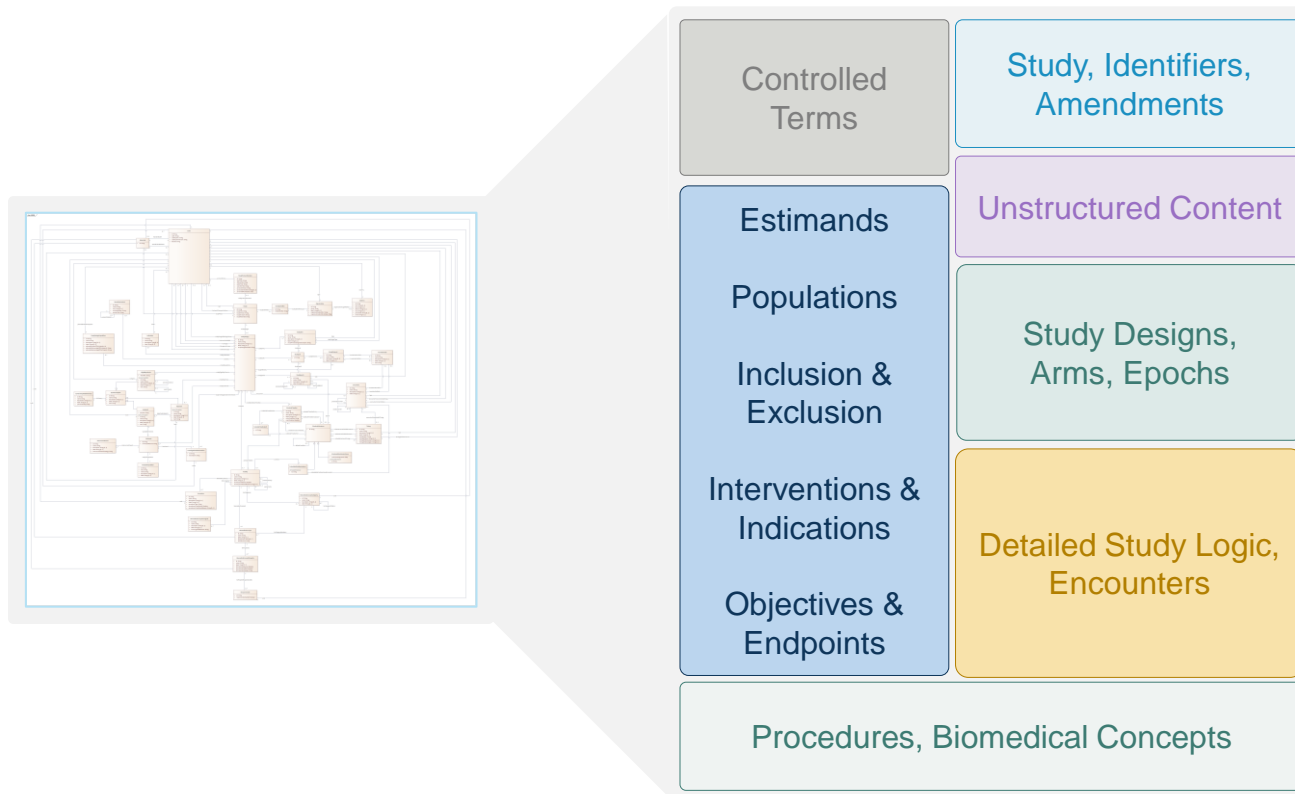


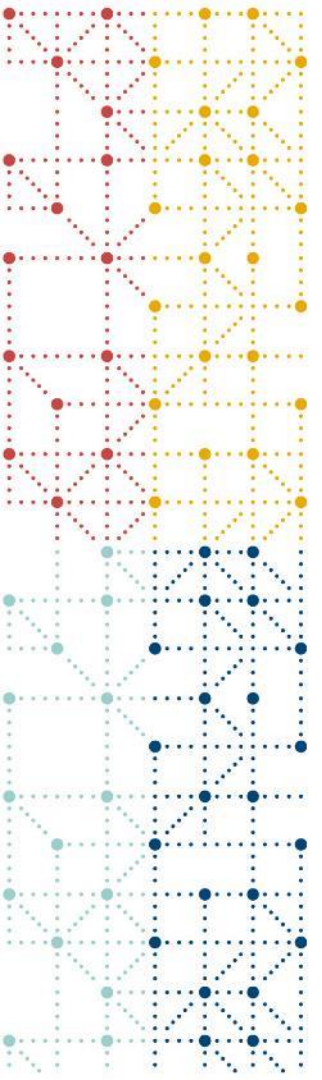
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# USDM Content

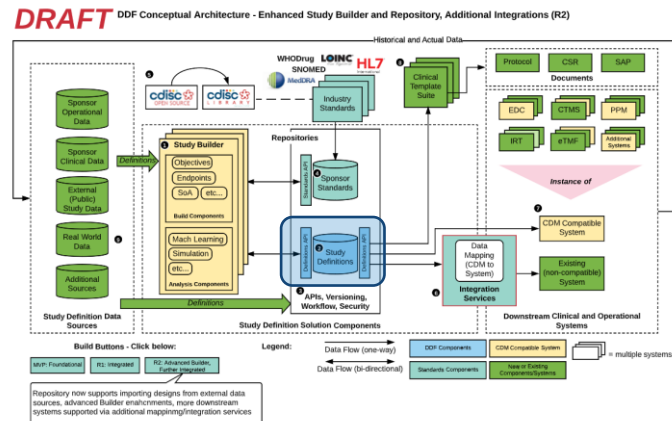




# Use Cases and Adoption

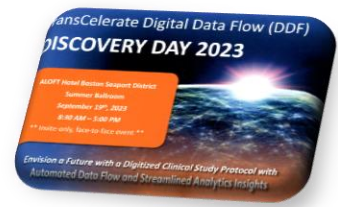
# Use Cases

 Data Capture	Automate the setup of data capture systems, incl. RWE, and capture the data.	CTMS, TMF ...	The provision of protocol information to downstream systems needing "study" information.
SoA	Use the study design to build the FHIR SoA message.	Query	Having multiple studies that have a common structure allows for data export and query across the set of studies.
Data Import	Import data from a variety of sources. Can be re-exported thus allowing for conversion across versions.	 SDTM	Automate the generation of SDTM datasets using the study design and BCs, including the "T" Domains.
 Common Protocol Template (CPT)	Generation of the CPT from a study design. 		
Data Decay	Re-import data using the USDM as a framework to rebuild a study design & data using the SDTM Trial Design Domains.		
Scoring	The "scoring" of a study for such purposes as site impact, subject impact, environmental impact etc.		
Feasibility	The use of the design to determine study feasibility including subject recruitment. A study data template.		
 CT Registry	The provision of study information to a CT registry.		
FAIR Data	The use of the design to aid Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability.		



Any time we read some portion of a protocol ... is a use case






# USDM Adoption

 USDM Data Mining Application

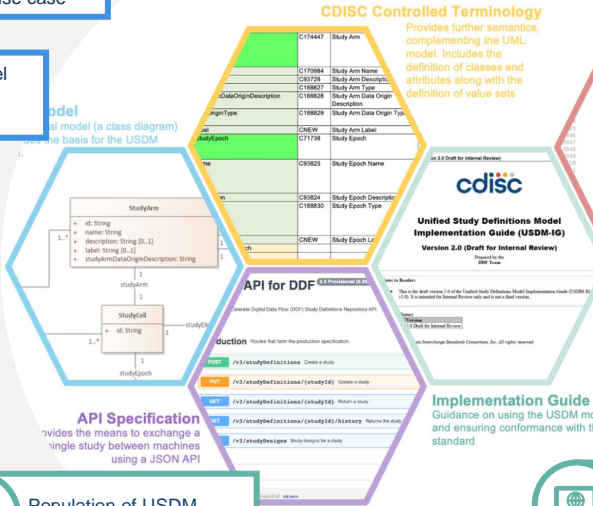
 Sponsor working with CDISC to develop a retrospective use case

 Study Build Application

 Sponsor is using the model for retrospective data ingestion

 Study Build & EDC Configuration


*Retrospective has a lower risk as a first point of entry into using USDM*



## Retrospective Studies


- The “footnote conundrum”**
- Retrospective study re-creation brings a few challenges
  - We are not constrained by the “2D” paper world. USDM enables an “improved” reconstruction
  - Sponsors need to consider their “philosophy”, their approach to “reconstruction” of protocols

## Prospective Studies

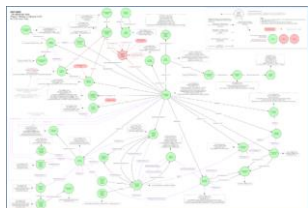
 Population of USDM from old protocols

 Study Build Application

 Open Study Builder Study Build Application

 Academic institution using the model as a component of a data import application

# DDF Initiative encompasses technical delivery, change management, and industry engagement



**cdisc**  
 Unified Study  
 Definitions Model  
 (USDM) Reference  
 Architecture

TransCelerate's  
 Study Definitions  
 Repository (SDR)



Suite of DDF Adoption  
 Resources, Videos &  
 Change Management Tools



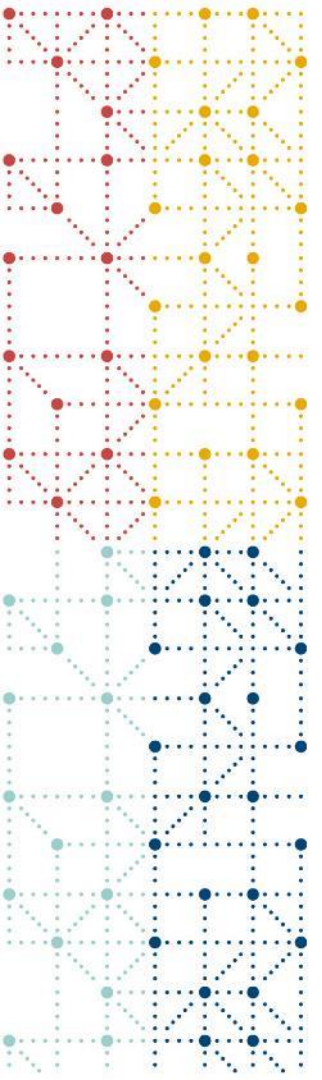
Continued Industry Collaboration  
 between TransCelerate, CDISC  
 ICH, and HL7



Growing Solution  
 Collaboration Forum (SCF)\*



*\*Company logos illustrate current involvement and are not used to imply endorsement of specific vendors for DDF or to identify a comprehensive list of all actual or potential future participants in DDF.*

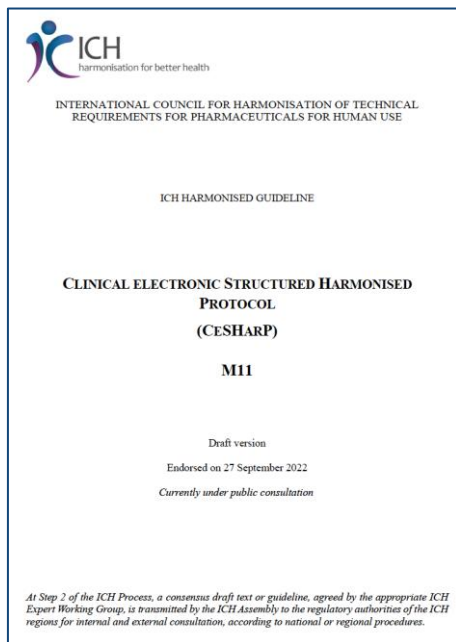


## Phase Three: USDM Meets M11

# M11 Is ...

## ICH CLINICAL ELECTRONIC STRUCTURED HARMONISED PROTOCOL (CeSHaRP)

<https://www.ich.org/page/multidisciplinary-guidelines>



ICH  
harmonisation for better health

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HARMONISATION OF TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PHARMACEUTICALS FOR HUMAN USE

ICH HARMONISED GUIDELINE

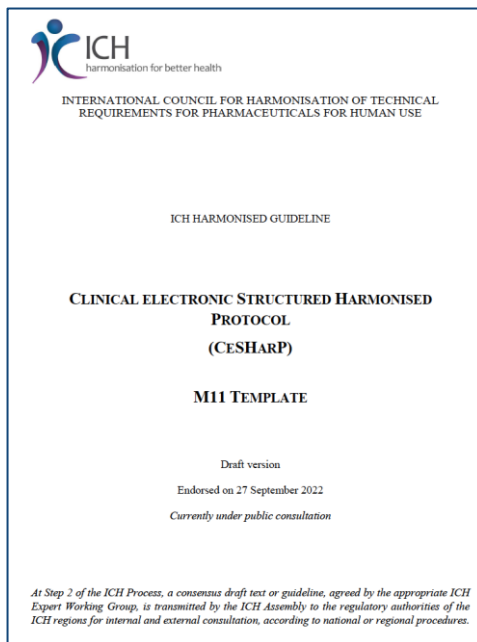
CLINICAL ELECTRONIC STRUCTURED HARMONISED PROTOCOL (CESHARP)

M11

Draft version  
Endorsed on 27 September 2022  
Currently under public consultation

*At Step 2 of the ICH Process, a consensus draft text or guideline, agreed by the appropriate ICH Expert Working Group, is transmitted by the ICH Assembly to the regulatory authorities of the ICH regions for internal and external consultation, according to national or regional procedures.*

Provides background, purpose, and scope as a guideline



ICH  
harmonisation for better health

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HARMONISATION OF TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PHARMACEUTICALS FOR HUMAN USE

ICH HARMONISED GUIDELINE

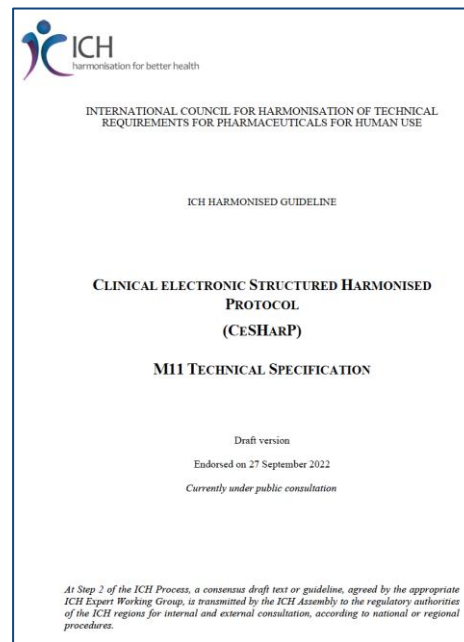
CLINICAL ELECTRONIC STRUCTURED HARMONISED PROTOCOL (CESHARP)

M11 TEMPLATE

Draft version  
Endorsed on 27 September 2022  
Currently under public consultation

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Provides the written format for the 'Interventional Clinical Trial Protocol Template'



ICH  
harmonisation for better health

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HARMONISATION OF TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PHARMACEUTICALS FOR HUMAN USE

ICH HARMONISED GUIDELINE

CLINICAL ELECTRONIC STRUCTURED HARMONISED PROTOCOL (CESHARP)

M11 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Draft version  
Endorsed on 27 September 2022  
Currently under public consultation

*At Step 2 of the ICH Process, a consensus draft text or guideline, agreed by the appropriate ICH Expert Working Group, is transmitted by the ICH Assembly to the regulatory authorities of the ICH regions for internal and external consultation, according to national or regional procedures.*

Provides the technical representation aligned with the guideline and protocol template



# M11 Simple Example

## Template Specification

<b>Protocol Full Title:</b>	[Protocol Full Title] The protocol should have a descriptive title that identifies the scientific aspects of the trial sufficiently to ensure it is immediately evident what the trial is investigating and on whom, and to allow retrieval from literature or internet searches.
<b>Sponsor Confidentiality Statement:</b>	[Sponsor Confidentiality Statement] Insert the Sponsor's confidentiality statement, if applicable, otherwise delete.
<b>Protocol Number:</b>	[Protocol Number] A unique alphanumeric identifier for the trial, designated by the Sponsor, is a standard part of trial data, and should be included for most trials.
<b>Version:</b>	[Version] An optional field for use by the Sponsor at their discretion.
<b>Amendment Number:</b>	[Amendment Number] Enter the amendment number. If this is the original instance of

## Trial Phase:

[Trial Phase] [Description of Trial Phase Other]

Acceptable entries are: "Early Phase 1", "Phase 1", "Phase 1/Phase 2", "Phase 2", "Phase 2/Phase 3", "Phase 3", "Phase 4",

<b>Compound Number(s):</b>	[Compound Number] Enter the Sponsor's unique identifier for investigational compound(s) in the trial. Add or delete additional fields as needed.
<b>Compound Name(s):</b>	[Nonproprietary Name]. [Proprietary Name]. [Additional Proprietary Name] Delete this line from the table if a nonproprietary name has not yet been assigned. Omit proprietary name fields if not yet established.
<b>Trial Phase:</b>	[Trial Phase] [Description of Trial Phase Other] Acceptable entries are: "Early Phase 1", "Phase 1", "Phase 1/Phase 2", "Phase 2", "Phase 2/Phase 3", "Phase 3", "Phase 4",

## Technical Specification

<b>Term (Variable)</b>	Trial Phase
<b>Data Type</b>	Pick list
<b>Topic, Value or Header</b>	D
<b>Definition</b>	
<b>User Guidance</b>	For trials combining investigational drugs or vaccines with devices, classify according to the phase of drug development.
<b>Conformance</b>	Required
<b>Cardinality</b>	
<b>Relationship content from ToC representing the protocol hierarchy</b>	Title Page
<b>Relationship (reference to high level conceptual model)</b>	
<b>Value</b>	Early Phase 1 Phase 1 Phase 1/Phase 2 Phase 2 Phase 2/Phase 3 Phase 3 Phase 4 Other
<b>Business rules</b>	<b>Value Allowed:</b> yes <b>Relationship:</b> n/a <b>Concept:</b> Protocol short title
<b>Duplicate field in other sections</b>	

# Controlled Terms

Technical Specification

Template Specification

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<b>Term (Variable)</b>	Trial Phase
<b>Data Type</b>	Pick list
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<b>User Guidance</b>	For trials combining investigational drugs or vaccines with devices, classify according to the phase of drug development.
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<b>Cardinality</b>	
<b>Relationship content from ToC representing the protocol hierarchy</b>	Title Page
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<b>Value</b>	Early Phase 1 Phase 1 Phase 1/Phase 2 Phase 2 Phase 2/Phase 3 Phase 3 Phase 4 Other
<b>Business rules</b>	<b>Value Allowed:</b> yes <b>Relationship:</b> n/a <b>Concept:</b> Protocol short title
<b>Duplicate field in other sections</b>	

**Trial Phase:** [Trial Phase] [Description of Trial Phase Other]  
Acceptable entries are: "Early Phase 1", "Phase 1", "Phase 1/Phase 2", "Phase 2", "Phase 2/Phase 3", "Phase 3", "Phase 4",

<b>Compound Number(s):</b>	[Compound Number] Enter the Sponsor's unique identifier for investigational compound(s) in the trial. Add or delete additional fields as needed.
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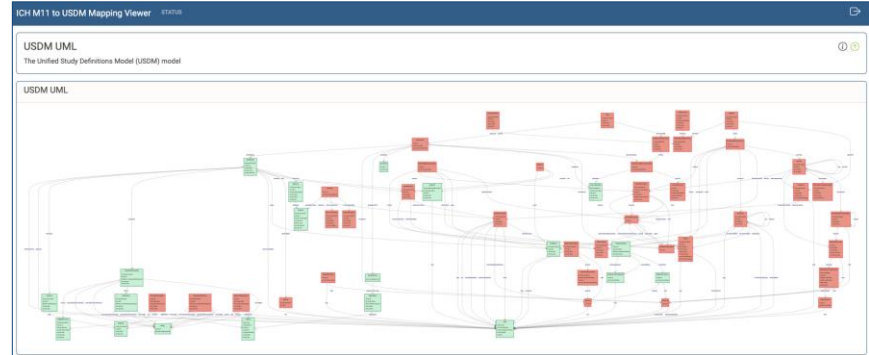
**CDISC CT**  
**Trial Phase Response (C66737)**  
NOT APPLICABLE  
PHASE 0 TRIAL  
PHASE I TRIAL  
PHASE I/II TRIAL  
PHASE II TRIAL  
PHASE II/III TRIAL  
PHASE IIA TRIAL  
PHASE IIB TRIAL  
PHASE III TRIAL  
PHASE IIIA TRIAL  
PHASE IIIB TRIAL  
PHASE IV TRIAL  
PHASE V TRIAL



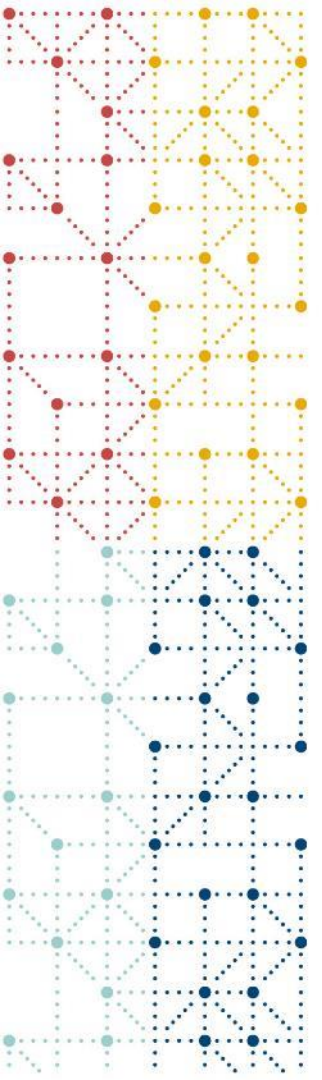
# ICH M11 Protocol Specifications

- Original plan was to release USDM V3 at a similar time to the first issue of the ICH M11 specification
- ICH M11 Delivery timelines are currently being amended
- USDM V3 accommodates the latest available ICH M11 information
- ICH, HL7 Vulcan and CDISC now working together on the ICH Technical Implementation Guide (TIG) that will be part of the ICH release

The screenshot displays the 'ICH M11 to USDM Mapping Viewer' interface. The main window is titled 'M11 to USDM Mapping' and contains two panels. The left panel, 'M11 Section Detail', lists various fields for data entry, such as 'Sponsor Confidentiality Statement', 'Full Title', 'Trial Acronym', 'Protocol Identifier', 'Original Protocol', 'Version Number', 'Version Date', 'Amendment Identifier', 'Amendment Scope', 'Compound Code(s)', 'Compound Name(s)', 'Trial Phase', and 'Short Title'. Each field has a corresponding input field with a placeholder text and a small icon. The right panel, 'USD Mapping', shows a 'Mapping for Title, Trial Phase' and a 'Class: StudyVersion' with an attribute 'studyPhase'. It includes a 'Definition' section with a detailed text block and a 'Terminology' section with a 'Path: StudyVersion/@studyPhase'. Below the text is a UML class diagram showing a 'StudyVersion' class with attributes '+string id', '+string rationale', and '+string versionIdentifier'. A 'studyPhase' attribute is shown with a cardinality of '1..1' and an association to an 'AliasCode' class.







# Summary

# The Art Of The Possible

## TransCelerate Digital Data Flow (DDF) DISCOVERY DAY 2023

### Tailored User Experience

#### Value of an *Electronic* ICH Protocol Template



##### Value of an ICH Protocol Template



- Predictability
  - Format and Structure – Table of Contents
  - Core Content – common set of information
- Allows flexibility – recommended and optional text / sections
- Common instructions
- Serves clinical trial stakeholders and “downstream” content re-use
- Consistent with all other relevant ICH Guidelines, where possible
- Acceptable in all ICH countries



#### Protocol will be data-driven . . .

- **Tailored User Experience**
  - Task or role-based views of the content
  - Personal views– have the information served up the way you want it
- **Collaboration**
  - Multi-sponsor development programs
  - Regulator to Regulator Reviews
- **Downstream Automation**
  - Clinical Trial Registries
  - Data Capture
  - Statistical Analysis Plan
  - Clinical Study Report
  - Other Protocols
- **Future**
  - Capability to compare / contrast trial designs across scenarios

Slide taken from CDISC US Interchange 2023 Presentation

“ICH M11 Clinical Electronic Structured Harmonized Protocol”

Ron Fitzmartin, PhD, MBA  
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research  
Food and Drug Administration

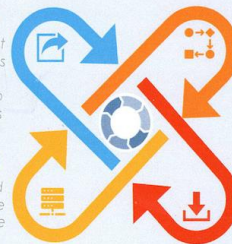
Hotel Boston Seaport District  
Summer Ballroom  
September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM  
Only, face-to-face event \*\*

in a Future with a Digitized Clinical Study Protocol with  
Automated Data Flow and Streamlined Analytics Insights

From Documents to Data: Write Once, Read Many Times

#### Digitized Protocols

Technologies that enable study elements to be shared in a standardized way allows industry to create digital protocols



#### Connectivity of Data and Processes

Enabling traceability, automated flow of content to key clinical documents, and automation to clinical & operational systems (e.g. EDC, CTMS)

#### Open & Flexible Solution

A functioning, example solution to enable exchange of protocol info between systems that is vendor agnostic, flexible, and provided in open source

#### Advanced Analytics

After enabling the use of advanced analytics, such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to improve study designs

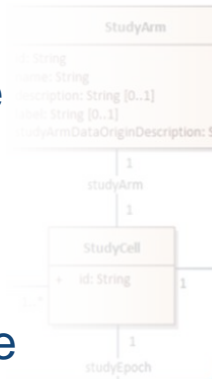
# Summary

- Digital Data Flow / Unified Study Definitions Model (DDF/USDM) fills an important gap
- USDM is but one building block, but an important one
- USDM accommodation of ICH M11 will be an important step forward
- Can support various use cases, the prospective versus the retrospective
- We are only limited by our imagination, the art of the possible

	C174447	Study Arm
	C170984	Study Arm Name
	C93728	Study Arm Description
	C188827	Study Arm Type
	C188828	Study Arm Data Origin Description
	C188829	Study Arm Data Origin Type
	CNEW	Study Arm Label
	C71738	Study Epoch
	C93825	Study Epoch Name
	C93824	Study Epoch Description
	C188830	Study Epoch Type
	CNEW	Study Epoch Label

Provides further s complementing the model. Includes the definition of class attributes along with definition of value

class diagram) for the USDM



on 2.0 Draft for Internal Review

**cdisc**

**Unified Study Definitions Implementation Guide**

**Version 2.0 (Draft for Internal Review)**

Prepared by: [unclear]

**API for DDF** 2.4 Provisional (0.39)

Generate Digital Data Flow (DDF) Study Definitions Repository API.

**Introduction** Routes that form the production specification.

POST	/v3/studyDefinitions	Create a study
PUT	/v3/studyDefinitions/{studyId}	Update a study
GET	/v3/studyDefinitions/{studyId}	Return a study
GET	/v3/studyDefinitions/{studyId}/history	Returns the study history
GET	/v3/studyDesigns	Study designs for a study

> Expand all objects

API Specification means to exchange a study between machines using a JSON API

Implement Guidance on and ensuring standard

# Thank You

## Contacts:

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John Owen: [jowen@cdisc.org](mailto:jowen@cdisc.org)

## Links:

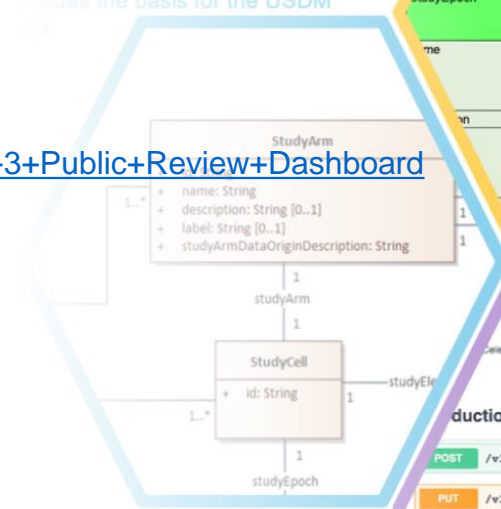
Public Review: <https://wiki.cdisc.org/display/PUB/DDF+Phase+3+Public+Review+Dashboard>

Github: <https://github.com/cdisc-org/DDF-RA>

## CDISC Team:

- Gerry Campion
- Drew Mills
- Erin Muhlbradt
- John Owen
- Berber Snoeijer
- Craig Zwickl

**Logical Model**  
 UML logical model (a class diagram) provides the basis for the USDM and...



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Expand all object

**API Specification**  
 Provides the means to exchange a single study between machines using a JSON API