Q&A Session for Collaborative Stage Data Collection System (CS) Vendor Webinar Part I Wednesday, April 11, 2012

-Mark Morseth-Mayer (morseth-mayer.mark@marshfieldclinic.org) - 1:31 PM

Q-1: What will be the impact of Meaningful Use Stage 2 on the AbstractPlus application?

A: There will be no impact of meaningful use on Abstract Plus, except for perhaps the reduction in the number of abstracts being abstracted as we move towards HER reporting. The Registry Plus software of eMaRC Plus is being developed to accommodate the new data flows that will be generated by Meaningful Use Stage 2.

-Matt Bavis (bavism@fuse.net) - 1:26 PM

Q-2: At the end can you address a recommended way to identify which SSF are required by each schema, so one would know which ones to disable?

A: Find the number of rows each Site-specific Factor table has for the selected schema and if there is only one row in the table take the code from that row as the default value for the Site-specific Factor field and disable/hide it in the data entry form.

If you're referring to whether the SSF is required for data collection, that is up to the standard setters, and the information about standard-setter requirements is not part of the CS system.

If you're referring to whether the SSF is required for stage calculation, the function CStage_get_table_usage() will return a constant indicating whether the table is used. A value of Active indicates that the table is used in staging; a value of Drone indicates the table is not used. A value of Undefined indicates that the table is not used in staging and is not defined for the schema. These are the tables referred to in the first paragraph of this answer above- some of them have one row; some of them have two rows. Number of rows is not a reliable indicator.

Another approach is to use the spreadsheet which contains a listing of all of the defined Site-Specific Factors (SSFs) by schema. The spreadsheet shows the SEER/CoC required SSFs by schema, and it is color coded to distinguish which SSFs are required for stage (see the pink/red color blocks). The NCI SEER*CSTest site, which was demonstrated during the webinar, utilizes this spreadsheet to determine which SSFs are required by SEER/CoC. See the site: http://www.cancerstaging.org/cstage/manuals/cocseer.xls The same spreadsheet was used for CSv0203 and CSv0204.

-Matt Bavis (bavism@fuse.net) - 1:28 PM

Q-3: Additionally can you identify which function would return the notes and footnotes.

A: CStage_get_table_note() and CStage_get_table_footnote() return a specific note/footnote. CStage_get_number_table_notes() and CStage_get_number_table_footnotes() return the number of notes/footnotes respectively so you can iterate through them.

-Gary Levin (glevin@med.miami.edu) - 1:43 PM

Q-4: Has there been any changes to the Schema numbers?

A: Not in CS version 02.04.

-Gary Levin (glevin@med.miami.edu) - 1:44 PM

Q-5: I came a bit late so this may have been answered. Have there been any changes to the data card from 0203 to 0204?

A: No.

-Gary Levin (glevin@med.miami.edu) - 1:44 PM

Q-6: Who can I contact for questions about the conversion documentation?

A: Send questions to CSv2@facs.org. The questions will be routed to the appropriate person to answer.

-Gary Levin (glevin@med.miami.edu) - 2:10 PM

Q-7: Is the SEER*CS Test currently available for public use?

A: Not currently, but we expect it to be released on the SEER website in the next month. We will send out a notification when it is live.

-Bonnie Nelson (bonnie@ers-can.com) - 2:12 PM

Q-8: I would like to suggest you place a year out to the side of each CS Version Original option to avoid error. Otherwise I like this feature.

A: Sounds like a good idea. If I can find the dates, I will add them.

-Gary Levin (glevin@med.miami.edu) - 2:23 PM

Q-9: Chuck made a reference to default SSF values on the CS Web site. Is this the DCO default spreadsheet or something else?

A: Yes, it is the DCO spreadsheet. The defaults seemed to work well in the general coding case as well

-Nancy Rold (roldn@missouri.edu) - 2:28 PM

Q-10: If obsolete codes are not viewable, how is manual review done at the time of database conversion?

A: In Abstract Plus, if CS Version Original is pre 020000 we do not hide obsolete codes; as a result, for older cases requiring review, we do display the obsolete codes so that resolution of the review cases can occur. For newly abstracted cases, we suppress the obsolete codes.

Q-11: Is there a plan in the future to make java version of libraries (Jar) to call as compared to CStage.dll?

A: There are currently no plans to make a java version available. One can use a wrapper to call CStage.dll from Java.

The NCI has variety of Java applications currently using CStage. They use JNA (https://github.com/twall/jna) to access a C library through Java. It takes some setup but it does work well. In addition, the NCI will be releasing a web service in the next few months that uses the library and provides platform-independent access to the APIs. Further details will be forwarded when this is available.