

Quality Assurance Committee

October 2009 Report to the General Assembly

At its meeting in Helsingor in April 2009, the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) committed to undertake 10 work items in support of the IHTSDO's objectives of enhancing the quality of its products and processes. Highlighted below is a summary of the progress on selected items that Committee members, supported by the Chief Quality Officer, achieved over the last six months.

Implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework.

The QAC is working with 4 project groups as well as with IHTSDO office staff who are implementing the Quality Assurance Framework that was approved by the Management Board in October 2008. Feedback from trial implementations is being prepared for presentation to the MB. Key areas of feedback have been related to the support materials and the ongoing capturing, monitoring and sharing of the resulting metrics. The key recommendation to the MB will be that it consider the Quality Framework as a standard, and that the draft for use testing period be extended to the end of 2009. The Quality Framework, on this basis, would be ready for formal implementation in Spring, 2010, though new projects in the interim will use the framework as identification of quality metrics is now built into the IHTSDO project template.

SNOMED CT content work related to quality

The QAC worked with CAP STS to get quality assurance processes for run time, over night and release – both descriptions and SQL. This information will be fed into the Workbench. It will also be used by the QAC to do more work on quality assurance of the SNOMED CT product.

In addition, the QAC developed a proposal for a piece of work to develop a draft set of criteria evaluating quality SNOMED CT clinical content representations. External resources will be engaged to assist in the identification of criteria to measure quality. These criteria will then be tested against approximately 2000 terms resulting in recommendations for moving forward. Phase 1 of this work – development of criteria and testing will be completed by year end with Phase 2 planned for 2010.

Survey of IHTSDO Request Submission Users

The QAC developed a survey that was distributed to 50+ individuals who have used the request submission process over the last 2 years. The purpose of the survey was to identify what currently works well and to suggest improvement to the process as it transitions to the Workbench. A 31% response rate was achieved on the survey. Results are currently being collated and will be reviewed at the October meeting of the QAC.

Induction material for new members to committees

The QAC has done work on orientation material for new members – identifying and packaging relevant material to ease induction into the organization. This information has been shared with the IHTSDO office and will be incorporated into relevant processes in an effort to facilitate the transition of new Committee members through the fall and winter.

Quality Dashboard

The QAC has begun to define a process that would eventually lead to the development of an interactive dashboard that would show real time (or recent) data. This project is just starting and at this time simple metrics are being identified that may be displayed on the IHTSDO website (and elsewhere).

Revision of Committee Terms of Reference

The QAC has revised their Terms of Reference to better reflect their objectives as well as the quality objectives of the IHTSDO. These revised Terms of Reference will be presented to the Management Board for approval.