Homogenizing Unique and Complex data into Standard SDTM Domains with TAUGs

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ABSTRACT
Clinical research supports discovery of new and better ways to detect, diagnose, treat and prevent disease. Furthermore, the core focus of each therapeutic area (TA) is on research and development of treatments, together with prevention of specific diseases. It must be envisaged that each TAs demands diverse way of collecting, measuring and analyzing data based on the focus of the research. SDTM is one of the pioneer CDISC foundational standards. It defines and underpins the strategy for submitting data tabulations to regulatory authorities. The SDTMIG organizes and formats data to support streamlined data collection and analysis across different TAs. TAUGs are extended Foundational Standards to represent data that pertains to specific disease areas. It supports pharmaceutical / biotech companies with implementation of these CDISC standards for a specific disease and facilitate resolutions for mapping additional or unique data points needed to support any given TA for their analysis. In this paper we will explore the TAUG (focusing on two different Therapeutic Areas) and will be elaborately discussing how to map the unique and custom data to the standard SDTM domains with the help of TAUG.

INTRODUCTION
Therapeutic Area (TA) in a simple way it is defined as a Clinical discipline. It is a ground that focus on the treatment and prevention of diseases which undesirably impact the health of living being. Data collection and analysis differs when there is a change in the therapeutic areas.

TAUG provides models of CDISC implementation of TA specific data that cannot be found in existing CDISC documentation. TAUG development identifies gaps in CDISC models which are then taken back to respective team for consideration and incorporation. There are many user guidelines for different therapeutic areas published by CFAST Team. The TA Standards include disease-specific metadata, examples and guidance on implementing CDISC standards for a variety of uses, including global regulatory submissions. Already there are many TA user guidelines available.

In this paper, we will focus on the Breast Cancer and Vaccines TA. The TAUG-BrCa is a standard guideline to use CDISC standards to represent data pertaining to breast cancer studies. It consists of metadata file, CRF examples, SDTM dataset mapping and ADaM dataset mapping examples. TAUG-Vax is a standard guideline relevant to Vaccine studies which consists of metadata file, SDTM dataset mapping.

TAUG
TAUG is the acronym for Therapeutic Area User Guide. TAUGs are developed under the Coalition for Accelerating Standards and Therapies (CFAST) initiative. CFAST, a joint initiative of the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) and the Critical Path Institute (C-Path), was launched to accelerate clinical research and medical product development by facilitating the establishment and maintenance of data standards, tools, and methods for conducting research in therapeutic areas.

As standards work takes place across the TA teams, there are regularly new collection and submission domains and/or variables identified that may be needed to support any given therapeutic area. These new articles are evaluated by the SDS teams for inclusion in the next publication of the standard. In the meantime, any new domain or variable in a TAUG would be designated as “Provisional” until such time as they appear in a succeeding publication of the standard.

The design and mapping of specialized data to current standards provides many opportunities to implement new and different submission strategies, while remaining compliant with the published standard. The target
of the CFAST initiative is to identify a core set of clinical therapeutic area biomedical concepts and endpoints for targeted therapeutic areas and translate them into CDISC standards to improve semantic understanding, support data sharing, and facilitate global regulatory submission.

**TAUG – BRCA**

**OVER VIEW OF BREAST CANCER**

Breast cancer is a disease in which malignant (cancer) cells form in the tissues of the breast. It is the most common cancer among women, although it exists in men in rare cases. Most breast cancers, almost 95% are cancer tumors that develop in the milk ducts.

Breast cancers can be caused by a variety of factors such as, the heredity factor, Menstruation and age, the diet relationship. Traditionally, cancers have been treated with a variety or a combination of methods. The most typical therapies are surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, radioactive substances, or immunotherapy. With breast cancers, almost all cases can be treated, but only on the condition that they are discovered at an early stage, mainly through physical inspection or through mammography. The most common method of dealing with a breast cancer is mastectomy where the cancer cells are removed through surgery.

**TAUG-BRCA**

TAUG-BrCa v1.0 describes common kinds of data relevant for breast cancer studies, so that those handling the data (e.g., data managers, statisticians, programmers) understand the data and can apply standards appropriately.

It represents Non-Standard Variables (NSVs) appended to the end of the parent domain and enable use of consistent terminology for aggregation, comparison of data across studies and drug programs. Followed by sample value-level metadata for the NSVs.

![Figure 1. Figure Presentation of Non-standard Variables](image)

The SDTM domains specific to Breast cancer studies is broadly classified in the below table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domains</th>
<th>Domains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disease Characteristics</td>
<td>MI, CM, PR, AE, MH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease managements and Assessments</td>
<td>TU, TR, RS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated Person data collection</td>
<td>APDM, APMH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. SDTM Domain Classification**
**Disease Characteristics**

The Disease characteristics is broadly classified as shown in the below figure.

![Diagram of Disease Characteristics]

**Figure 2. Disease Characteristics**

**Diagnosis**

The Diagnosis of a disease is categorized based on the Presence of the Breast Cancer, Type of Breast Cancer and Severity or the Extent of the Breast Cancer. Determination on the severity/extent of the BrCa the diagnosis part is usually captured in Finding domains.

The following tests and procedures may be used to diagnose:

- Physical exam and history
- Clinical breast exam (CBE)
- Mammogram
- Ultrasound exam
- MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)
- Blood chemistry studies
- Biopsy
- Fine-needle aspiration (FNA) biopsy
- Core biopsy
- Excisional biopsy
**Staging**

Staging is defined as the Extent to which the malignancy has spread in the body. The staging system of a breast cancer is based on TNM classification. T, N, and M stand for primary tumor, regional lymph node, and distant metastasis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T (TumorSize)</th>
<th>T1 (Tumor Size &lt;2cm)</th>
<th>T2 (Tumor Size 2-5 cm)</th>
<th>T3 (Tumor Size &gt;5 cm)</th>
<th>T4 (Tumor extent to other parts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N (Lymph Nodes)</td>
<td>N0 (No Lymph node metastasis)</td>
<td>N1 (Metastasis to ipsilateral, movable, axillary LNs)</td>
<td>N2 (Metastasis to ipsilateral fixed, axillary, or IM, LNs)</td>
<td>N3 (Metastasis to infraclavicular IN, or to axillary and IM LNs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M (Metastasis)</td>
<td>M0 (No distant metastasis)</td>
<td>M1 (Distant metastasis)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. TNM Classification**

**Pathology**

Pathologic assessments are both macroscopic and microscopic and provide further detail as to the specific type and aggressiveness of the cancer. Pathologic assessment of breast cancer includes immunohistochemistry (IHC) assessment for estrogen receptor (ER) and progesterone receptor (PR) as well as IHC or in situ hybridization (ISH) determination of human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) status. Mostly, this information is collected in MI or TU dataset.

**Prior Treatments**

Any prior treatments or newly diagnosed with breast cancer will be capture either in CM or PR domains. Using TAUG, the non-standard variables TRTINT(Treatment Intent), TRTSTT(Treatment Setting) and RSDISC(Reason for Discontinuation) will be added to CM domain.

**Risk Factors**

Any major diseases other than Breast cancer considered as a Major Comorbid Conditions and history of family members will be captured in AP domain.

**Disease Managements and Assessments**

**Treatment of Breast Cancer**

Local treatment affects cancer cells in the tumor and the area near it. The local treatments are,

- Surgery
- Radiation therapy

Systemic treatment travels through the bloodstream reaching cancer cells all over the body. The Systemic treatments are,

- Chemotherapy
- Hormone therapy
- Bone Directed
- Targeted therapy
Tumor Identification, Assessment and Disease Response

Tumor Identification (TU), Tumor Results (TR), and Disease Response (RS) are already present in SDTMIG in finding Domains. Despite that, a few variables are identified in TAUG metadata is captured in the below table 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TU</th>
<th>TR</th>
<th>RS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUYN</td>
<td>TRDIAM</td>
<td>RSYN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TULOCDTL</td>
<td>TRDIAMU</td>
<td>OVRLRESP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUCHANGE</td>
<td>TRTOOSM</td>
<td>OVRLDAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUDAT</td>
<td>TRINEVAL</td>
<td>TRGRESP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TUMSTATE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. TAUG Metadata Variables

The below sample CRF annotated to show mapping for Tumor Identification/Results of Target Lesions, Disease Response and mapping of New Lesion. SDTM variables are annotated in Red. If CDASH variable differs from SDTM, the CDASH variables are in Blue.

Figure 3. Sample aCRF with CDASH and SDTM Mapping – TU & TR Domains
Annotated CRF: Disease Response

This CRF is only an example and is not meant to imply that any particular layout is preferable over another.

CRF annotated to show mapping. SDTM variables are in **Red**. If CDASH variable differs from SDTM, the CDASH variable is in **Blue**.

*new variable request submitted. Refer to the corresponding CDASH Metadata table for more information on Sponsor-related Implementation decisions and TA specific usage rules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response Criteria: Pre-specified</th>
<th>RECIST 1.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Was the response assessment performed?</strong></td>
<td>□ Yes  □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reason Response Assessment Not Performed:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RSREASND</strong></td>
<td><strong>RSREASND where RSTESTCD=OVRLRESP</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluator</strong></td>
<td><strong>Evaluator Identifier:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RSEVAl</strong></td>
<td><strong>RSEVAlID</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall Response:</strong></td>
<td><strong>OVRLRESP</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RSTESTCD=OVRLRESP RSTEST=Overall Response</strong></td>
<td><strong>RSORRES (RSSTRFESC)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of Procedure for Overall Response (e.g., scan date):</strong> (DD-MMM-YYYY)</td>
<td><strong>OVRLDAT</strong> <strong>RSDT</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4. Sample aCRF with CDASH and SDTM mapping - RS Domain

Annotated CRF: Tumor Identification/Results - New Lesions

This CRF is only an example and is not meant to imply that any particular layout is preferable over another.

CRF annotated to show mapping. SDTM variables are in **Red**. If CDASH variable differs from SDTM, the CDASH variable is in **Blue**.

*new variable request submitted. Refer to the corresponding CDASH Metadata table for more information on Sponsor-related Implementation decisions and TA specific usage rules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New <strong>TUTESTCD=TUMIDEXT and TUORRES=NEW</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Criteria: Pre-specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Were tumors identified?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUVN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUMN</strong>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TULOC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Laterality:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TULA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Directionality:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUDIR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5. Sample aCRF with CDASH and SDTM Mapping - NEW Lesion
Disease recurrence
Recurrent breast cancer is often classified by the location of the recurrence relative to the original site as,

- Local recurrence means that the cancer has come back in the same place it first started.
- Regional recurrence means that the cancer has come back in the lymph nodes near the place it first started.
- Distant recurrence means the cancer has come back in another part of the body, some distance from where it started (often the lungs, liver, bone, or brain).

TAUG-VAX
OVERVIEW OF VACCINATION
Vaccine is a substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against one or several diseases, prepared from the causative agent of a disease, its products, or a synthetic substitute, treated to act as an antigen without inducing the disease.

TAUG-VAX
This TAUG-VAX focuses on safety data for reactogenicity events collected during vaccines trials. Vaccine development is the valuation of the vaccine's reactogenicity. Reactogenicity refers to capability of the substance to cause a reaction and especially an immunological reaction when administrated.

Severity of the reactogenicity event may be assessed by the subject, the investigator, or both. Reactogenicity events are solicited and are typically collected on either diary cards (paper or electronic device) or a reactogenicity case report form.

Reactogenicity events can be segregated as either administration site or localized events and systemic events. Administration site events are those occurring at or around the vaccine's administration site. Systemic reactogenicity events are those affecting an entire system or body.

According to TAUG-VAX, the reactogenicity events are represented in the Clinical Events (CE) domain rather than the Adverse Events (AE) domain. The event as a whole is captured in CE and the assessments pertaining to the events are captured in FA and/or VS domains.

The below figure is the sample CRF for reactogenicity event.

![Sample CRF with SDTM Mapping - CE and FACE Domains](image)

Figure 6. Sample aCRF with SDTM Mapping - CE and FACE Domains
The below screenshots show the data collected in CE, FACE and VS domains on the reactogenicity events.

Figure 7. Screenshot of CE Domain

Figure 8. Screenshot of FACE Domain

From the above screenshot, we can relate that the assessments about the reactogenicity events collected in CE Domain like Severity, measurements are captured in FACE Domain. They are also connected in RELREC to show the exact relationship.

Figure 9. Screenshot of RELREC

The occurrence of the SYSTEMIC event FEVER is captured in the FA domain and the corresponding temperature is captured in VS. the below screenshots showing the VS domain with the temperature values and RELREC establishing relationship between the occurrence of FEVER and the temperature.

Figure 10. Screenshot of VS Domain
CONCLUSION

The understanding of data and standardizing is always of great interest in the clinical research industry and with the advantage of TA knowledge it will be a quicker process. The availability of provisional standardization leading to CDISC compatibility saves lots of resources. The TAUGs will continue to be a mechanism by which sponsors can get targeted clinical trials up and running in a faster and more efficient manner by collecting and representing the trial data in a standard way.

REFERENCES


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to express my sincere gratitude to the management of my organization – “Ephicacy” for the encouragement and support in helping us with all the necessary facilities to write this paper.

We would also like to thank members of the Ephicacy family for their encouragement, insightful comments and hard questions.

Our sincere thanks to our Director Mr. Tyagrajan Swaminathan and our India center head Mr. Siva Ramamoorthy for their unwavered support.

RECOMMENDED READING

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