



## **ICH M11, TransCelerate, CDISC & HL7 Vulcan: Driving the Adoption of Digital Protocol**

Presented by Peter Van Reusel, Chief Standards Officer, CDISC

# Meet the Speaker

Peter Van Reusel

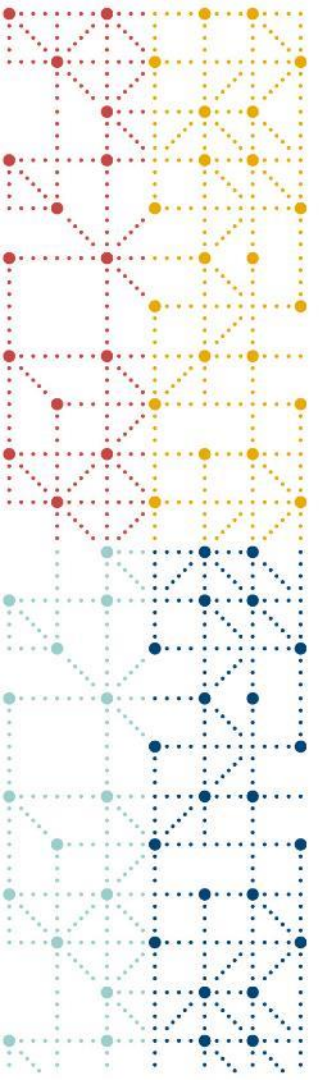
**Title:** Chief Standards Officer

**Organization:** CDISC



Peter Van Reusel provides executive leadership to the development and implementation of clinical standards in line with CDISC's strategy and operational plans, working closely with the President and CEO, as well as CDISC staff and stakeholders. He has over 20 years' experience in senior roles in pharma and at CROs, providing standards expertise and carrying out other standards work in various organizational settings. A long-time, CDISC-authorized instructor, Peter has helped significantly in developing CDISC training courses.

He previously served as CDISC's European Liaison, fostering relationships with key European regulatory, academic, and biopharma stakeholders. Peter is also an active PHUSE collaborator.



# Agenda

1. Introduction to the Digital Data Flow Project and USDM
2. Overview of M11 and the CDISC/ICH Partnership
3. USDM, M11, and the HL7 UDP – how do they come together?



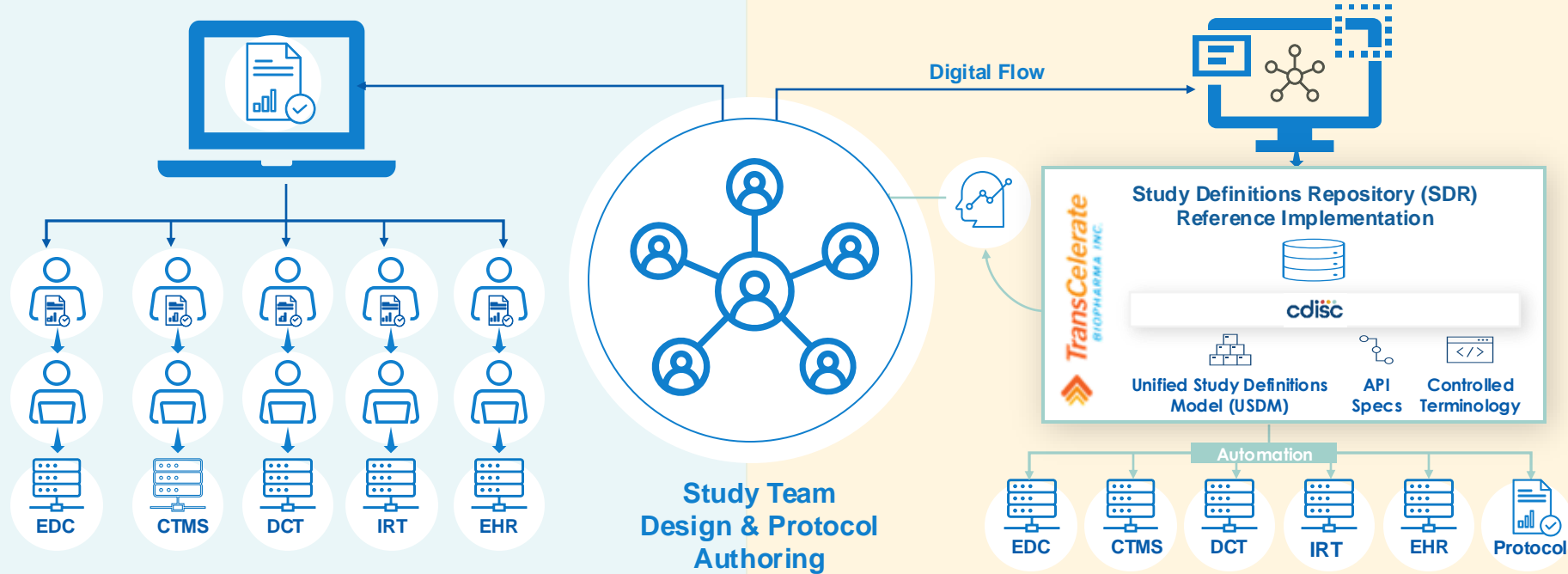
# **Introduction to the Digital Data Flow Project (DDF) and the Unified Study Definition Model (USDM)**

# 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

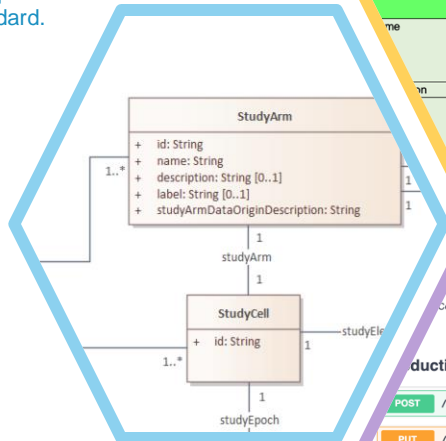
Provides further semantics, complementing the UML model. Includes the definition of classes, attributes, and value sets

## Examples

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

## 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

## CORE Rules

Specification of the rules that define USDM compliance

A	B	Entry Applies
Must conform with the USDM schema based on the specification (i.e., all required properties are present and no disallowed properties are present).	WARNING/ERROR	All
Attributes (string, number, boolean) must conform with the schema based on the API specification.	ERROR	All
Attributes must be included as defined in the USDM schema based on the API specification (i.e., required properties have at least one value and single-valued properties are not null).	ERROR	All
Within a study version, all id values must be unique.	ERROR	All
The names of all child instances of the same parent class must be unique.	ERROR	All
The same Biomedical Concept Category must not be referenced more than once from the same activity.	ERROR	Activity
A specified biomedical concept category is expected to be referenced by an activity.	WARNING	Activity
A specified biomedical concept surrogate is expected to be referenced by an activity.	WARNING	Activity
A specified biomedical concept is expected to be referenced by an activity.	WARNING	Activity
Children must not refer to a timeline, procedure, concept, biomedical concept category or biomedical concept.	ERROR	Activity
A procedure is expected to be referenced by an activity.	WARNING	Activity
A timeline is expected to be referenced by an activity.	WARNING	Activity
Attributes (string, number, boolean) must conform with the schema based on the API specification (i.e., required properties have at least one value and single-valued properties are not null).	WARNING	Activity

### API for DDF 2.4 Provisional (0.39)

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

**Production** 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",
    "type": {
      "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": "Active Substance Comparator Arm"
    }
  }
]
  
```

on 2.0 Draft for Internal Review)

### Unified Study Definitions Model Implementation Guide (USDM-IG)

Version 2.0 (Draft for Internal Review)

Prepared by the DDF Team

Notes to Readers

- This is the draft version 2.0 of the Unified Study Definitions Model Implementation Guide (USDM-IG v2.0). It is intended for Internal Review only and is not a final version.

History

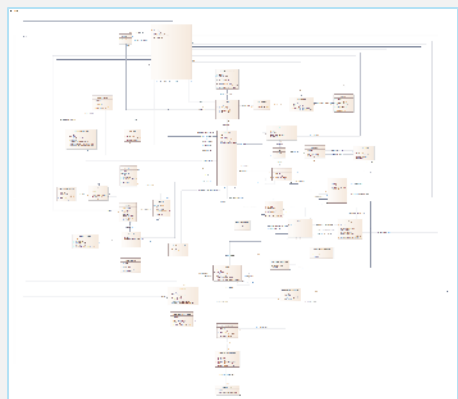
Version	Description
2.0 Draft for Internal Review	

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



# USDM Content



Controlled  
Terms

Study, Identifiers,  
Amendments

Estimands

Unstructured Content

Populations

Inclusion &  
Exclusion

Study Designs,  
Arms, Epochs

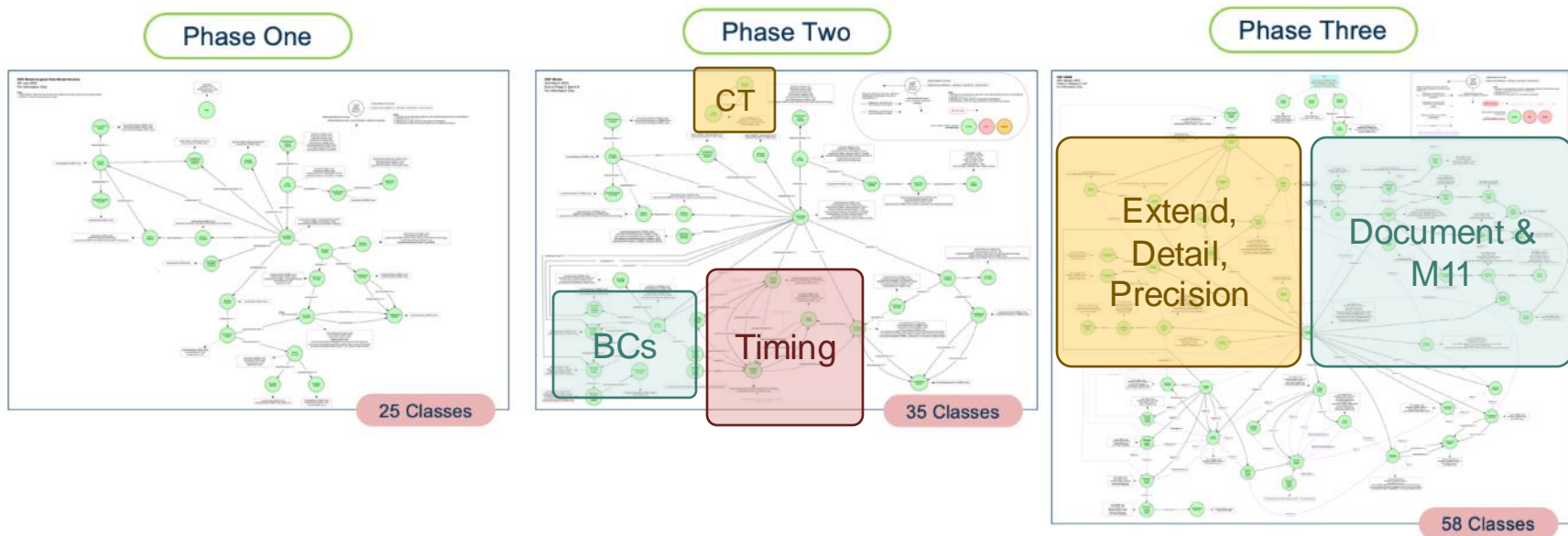
Interventions &  
Indications

Objectives &  
Endpoints

Detailed Study Logic,  
Encounters

Procedures, Biomedical Concepts

# CDISC USDM: Phases One, Two and Three



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

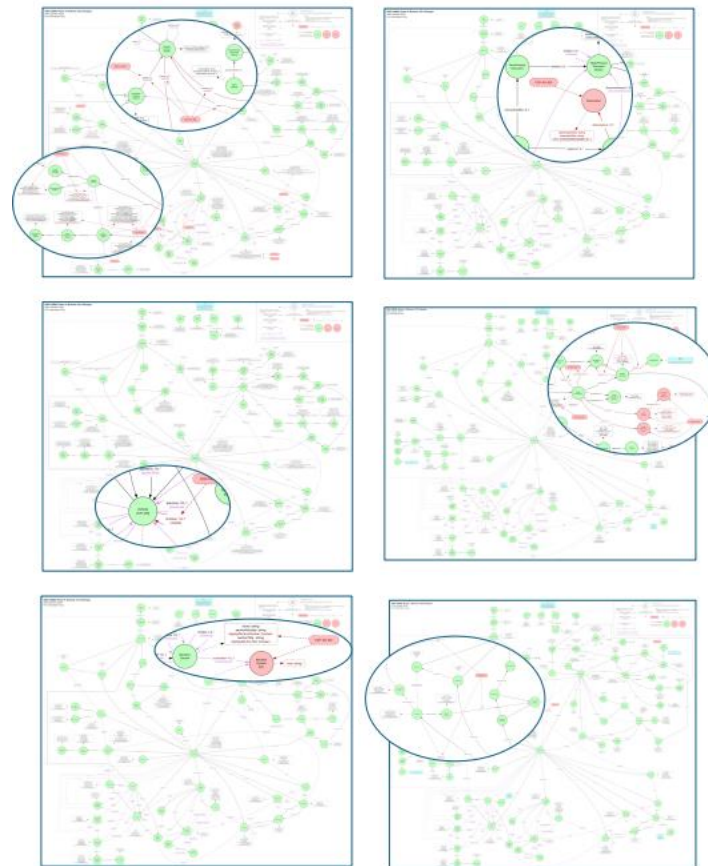
- Focused on the structured elements of the protocol, e.g. the Schedule of Activities (SoA) & Biomedical Concepts (BCs)
- The protocol document still an external entity

- 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



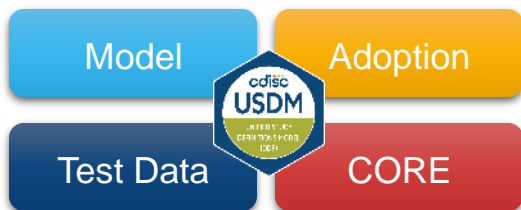
# CDISC USDM: Phase Four

- Notes & Criteria
- Activity Groups
- Multiple Template Support (M11 alignment)
- Abbreviations
- Interventions, Identifiers & Roles (M11 alignment)
- Amendments (M11 alignment)
- Estimands (M11 alignment)
- Observational & Device Studies
- **Final M11 alignment**



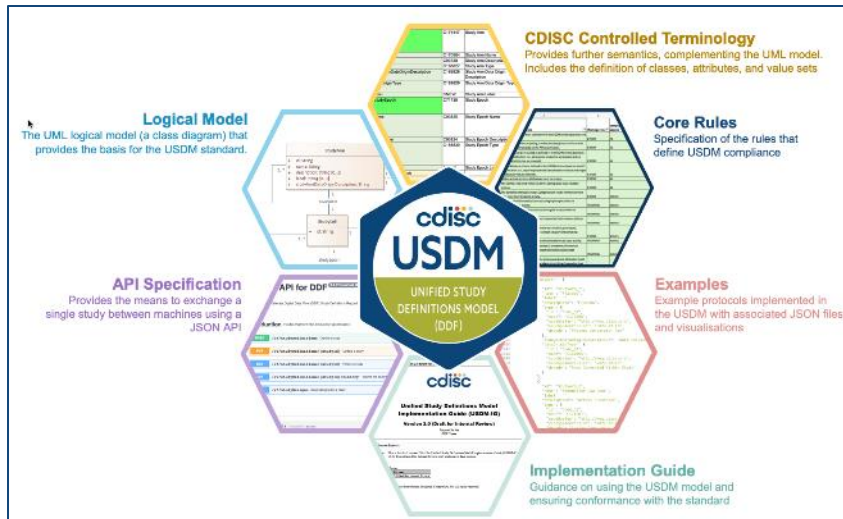
# Phase 4 Overview

- More focus on refinement rather than new content
- Need to pay attention to backward compatibility
- Maximum alignment with ICH M11
- Conformance Rules now part of the standard



## Phase Four Focus

- 1 **USDM Enhancements** Further IDMP Alignment, M11 amendments and versions, complex studies designs such as multiphase seamless designs, additional trial registration mappings, and statistical / estimands enhancements
- 2 Continued alignment of USDM with ICH M11
- 3 Participation in the Utilizing the Digital Protocol (UDP) project with TransCelerate, ICH and HL7 Vulcan
- 4 Continue development of USDM Conformance Rules to support USDM v3.0 and v4.0
- 5 Continue support and development of test data and test tools
- 6 Development of training and, education materials in conjunction with TransCelerate's Change and Engagement team to foster adoption of DDF



# DDF Evolution: Phases One to Four

		PHASE ONE July 2021 – July 2022	PHASE TWO Oct 2022 – Sep 2023	PHASE THREE July 2023– May 2024	PHASE FOUR Apr 2024– 1Q 2025
CDISC's USDM Reference Architecture	USDM Data Model	✓	✓	✓	□
	API Specification	✓	✓	✓	□
	CDISC Controlled Terminology	✓	✓	✓	□
	Implementation Guide		✓	✓	□
	Test Files		✓	✓	□
	Conformance CORE Rules – POC			✓	TBD
TransCelerate's SDR & Implementation Support	Study Definitions Repository (SDR)	✓	✓	✓	□
	Common Protocol Template (CPT) Interface Tool – POC		✓		
	Implementation Architecture Scenarios Toolkit		✓	◆	◆
	Persona Toolkits (MW, DM, IT)		✓	◆	◆
	Cloud Agnostic SDR – POC			✓	

# DDF Reference Architecture & Github

- The source of DDF Reference Architecture deliverables

- Unified Study Definitions Model (USDM) Class Diagram**  
The UML class diagram (normative) as well as SDI, Data Dictionary, Entity Relationship Diagram and example JSON output (informative)
- Application Programming Interface (API) Specification**  
The API definition (normative) in JSON and HTML forms
- CDISC Controlled Terminology**  
The controlled terminology (normative) developed for the project. Provided in an Excel format so as to be easily searched and filtered.
- Test Files**  
Examples of USDM JSON files
- Implementation Guide**  
Explanation of the model and its use, exemplar etc
- Conformance Rules**  
Specification of the CDISC CORE rules required for USDM conformance

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

cdisc-org / DDF-RA

Code Issues 49 Pull requests Zenhub Discussions Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights

DDF-RA Public  
generated from [cdisc-org/COSMAckathonTemplate](#)

main 4 Branches 34 Tags

github-actions Generate Diff and Data Dict 6 months ago 631 Commits

Deliverables Generate Diff and Data Dict 2 weeks ago

Documents Update informative diagram for criteria tweak 3 weeks ago

HowTos Initial commit 2 years ago

images Initial commit 2 years ago

.gitignore Updated Objective and Endpoint class 10 months ago

CODE\_OF\_CONDUCT.md Updated the enforcement contact 2 years ago

CONTRIBUTING.md Initial commit 2 years ago

LICENSE

README.md

README Code of co

DDF-RA

About

This is the repository for all code and documentation for the DDF-RA project.

- Readme
- MIT license
- Code of conduct
- Activity
- Custom properties
- 16 stars
- 11 watching
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Releases 34

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Code Issues 44 Pull requests Discussions Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights

Files

main + Q

Go to file

Deliverables

- API
- CT
- IG
- RULES
- UML
- Documents
- HowTos
- images

DDF-RA / Deliverables /

Dave Ibersen-Hurst Pushed to wrong branch, reverting


Name	Last commit message
..	
API	API updates
CT	Update USDM_CT.xlsx
IG	Added USDMIG post copy editing
RULES	Set of USDM v3.0 rules
UML	Pushed to wrong branch, reverting

# Example Resources – CDISC

**Digital Data Flow**

<https://www.cdisc.org/ddf>




Overview What is the USDM Participate Webinar Versions FAQ Contact Us



Welcome to Digital Data Flow (DDF) for Clinical Trial Protocols

Digital Data Flow Initiative will help modernize clinical trials by enabling a digital workflow with protocol digitization. This initiative establishes a foundation for a future state of automated & dynamic readiness that can transform the drug development process.

Below are a list of the different websites sourcing specific content and resources. Depending on where you are in the journey, please feel free to explore the different websites and their information.

 <p><b>CDISC DDF Website</b> You are here!</p> <p>Learn about the Unified Study Definitions Model (USDM) Reference Architecture supporting Protocol Standards</p> <p><b>Target Audience:</b> Those interested in data standards</p>	 <p><b>DDF Website</b></p> <p>As the main website for DDF, learn and access all resources supporting DDF</p> <p><b>Target Audience:</b> All those interested in implementing DDF Solutions</p>	 <p><b>DDF GitHub</b></p> <p>Learn about and access the Study Definitions Repository Reference implementation</p> <p><b>Target Audience:</b> Those interested in SDR development</p>	 <p><b>Transcelerate DDF Initiative Solutions</b></p> <p>Learn about DDF background and initiative roadmap</p> <p><b>Target Audience:</b> All those generally interested</p>
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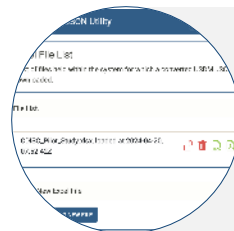
CDISC Github housing the USDM deliverables (model, CT, API etc) along with examples of protocols placed into USDM.

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



Open-source python package that implements USDM V3. Can be used by anyone to build test data

<https://pypi.org/project/usdm/>



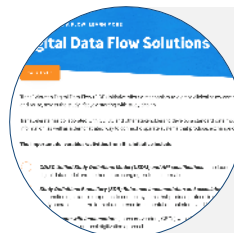
Web-based version of the USDM test tooling.

<https://usdm-service.fly.dev/>

# Example Resources – TransCelerate



<https://www.transceleratebiopharmainc.com/initiatives/digital-data-flow/>



TransCelerate web page holding a significant number of DDF and USDM resources including the persona guides

<https://www.transceleratebiopharmainc.com/assets/digital-data-flow-solutions/>



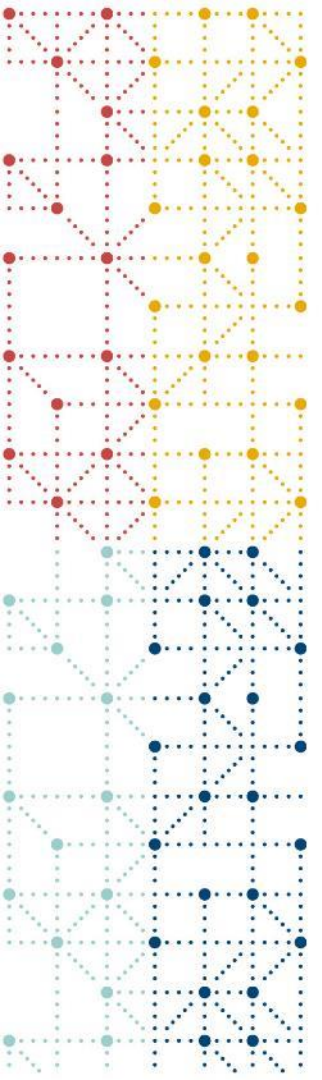
Github housing the source for the Study Definition Repository (SDR) Reference Implementation of the USDM

<https://github.com/transcelerate/ddf-sdr-platform>



DDF solutions directory. A growing list of self-reported solutions which utilize and follow the DDF Unified Study Definitions Model (USDM)

<https://transcelerate.github.io/ddf-directory/directory/directory.html>

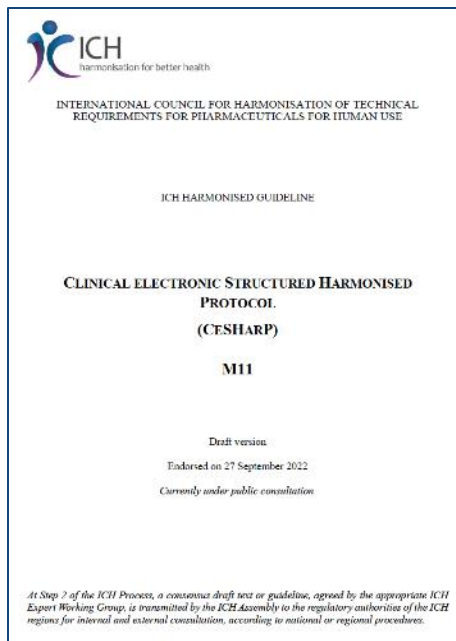


# Overview of M11 and the ICH/CDISC Partnership

# 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

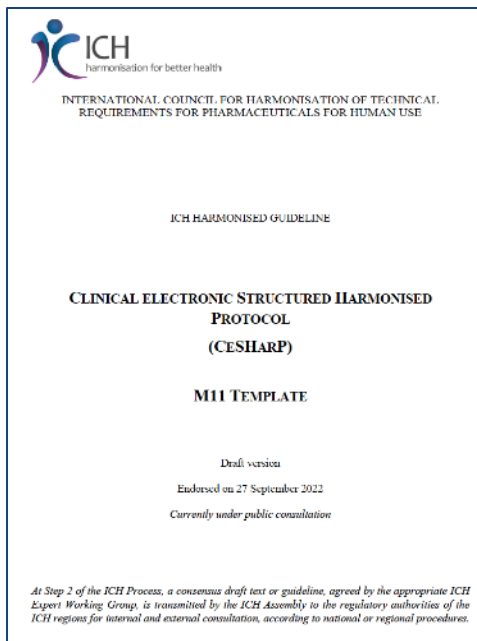
CLINICAL ELECTRONIC STRUCTURED HARMONISED  
PROTOCOL  
(CESHARP)

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

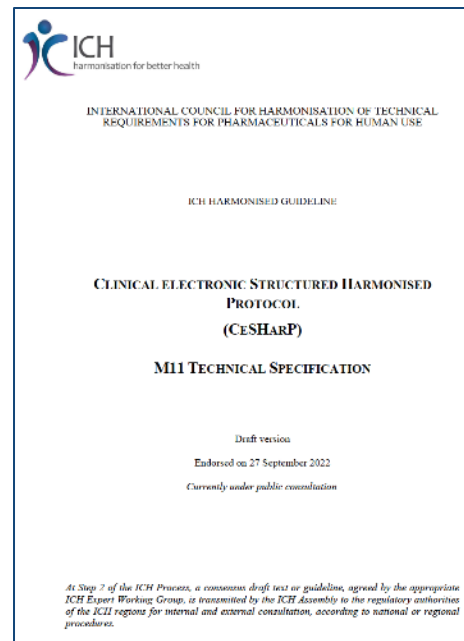
CLINICAL ELECTRONIC STRUCTURED HARMONISED  
PROTOCOL  
(CESHARP)

M11 TEMPLATE

Draft version  
Endorsed on 27 September 2022  
Currently under public consultation

*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 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 Controlled Terms

Technical Specification

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

<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>	

CDISC CT

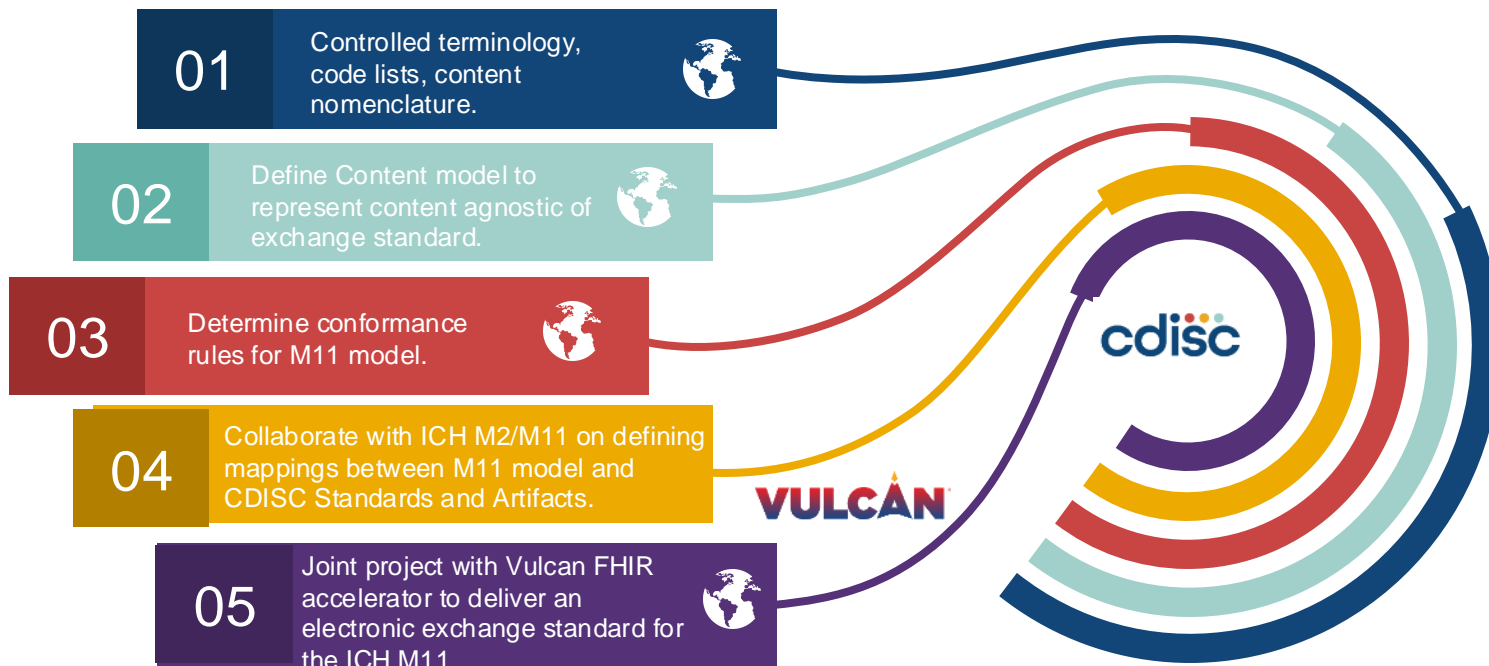
Trial Phase Response (C66737)

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

**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",

# CDISC M2/M11 Engagement



# ICH and CDISC MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)

As a collaboration between ICH and CDISC, the goals of the agreement are to:

- Use a unified governance process and terminology services for the long-term support of ICH controlled terminologies
- Curate and maintain ICH controlled terminologies
- Follow a robust process for the public review and publication of ICH terminologies
- Ensure the terminologies are freely available to the public following public review

## Scope

For ICH members to adopt and implement a clinical information standard it is critical that all terminology components, including but not limited to definitions described in the technical specification, are part of a greater international controlled terminology resource managed by an internationally recognized standards development organization (SDO). CDISC has been identified by ICH as a reputable SDO with the qualifications and capabilities to support the maintenance and facilitation of the governance process for ICH controlled terminology.

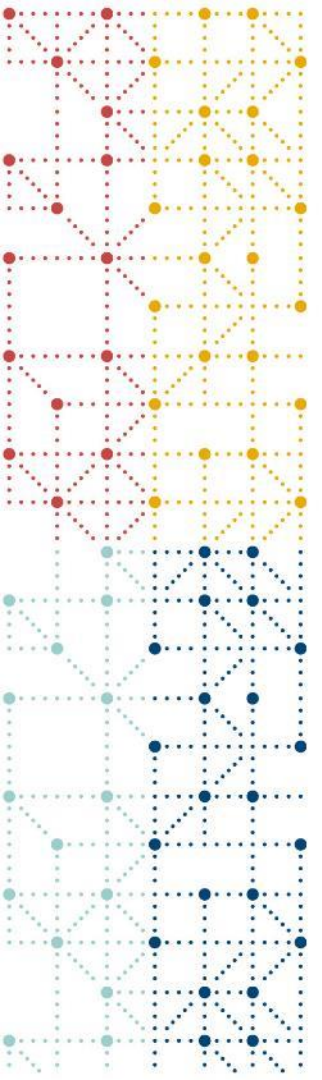
This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the roles and responsibilities of each party as they relate to the governance of the ICH terms and definitions developed in collaboration with CDISC. This MOU is intended to describe the goals, the high-level governance process, and how each party will collaborate. Specific projects (e.g., M11 controlled terminology) will be defined in detail as part of an annex to this MOU mutually agreed upon by CDISC and ICH.

## Goals

As a collaboration between ICH and CDISC, the goals of the agreement are to:

1. Use a unified governance process and terminology services for the long-term support of ICH controlled terminologies.
2. Curate and maintain ICH controlled terminologies.
3. Follow a robust process for the public review and publication of ICH terminologies
4. Ensure the terminologies are freely available to the public following public review.



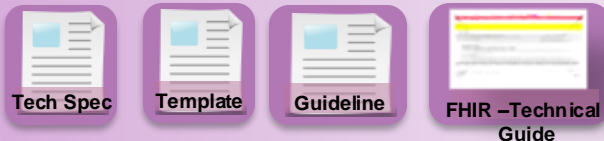


**USDM, M11, and the HL7 UDP – how do they come together?**

# ICH M11 and Vulcan Utilizing Digital Protocol (UDP)



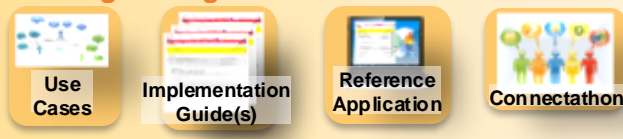
## CeSHarP



## USDM and Terminology



## Utilizing the Digital Protocol – UDP



## Inputs:

ICH M11 template

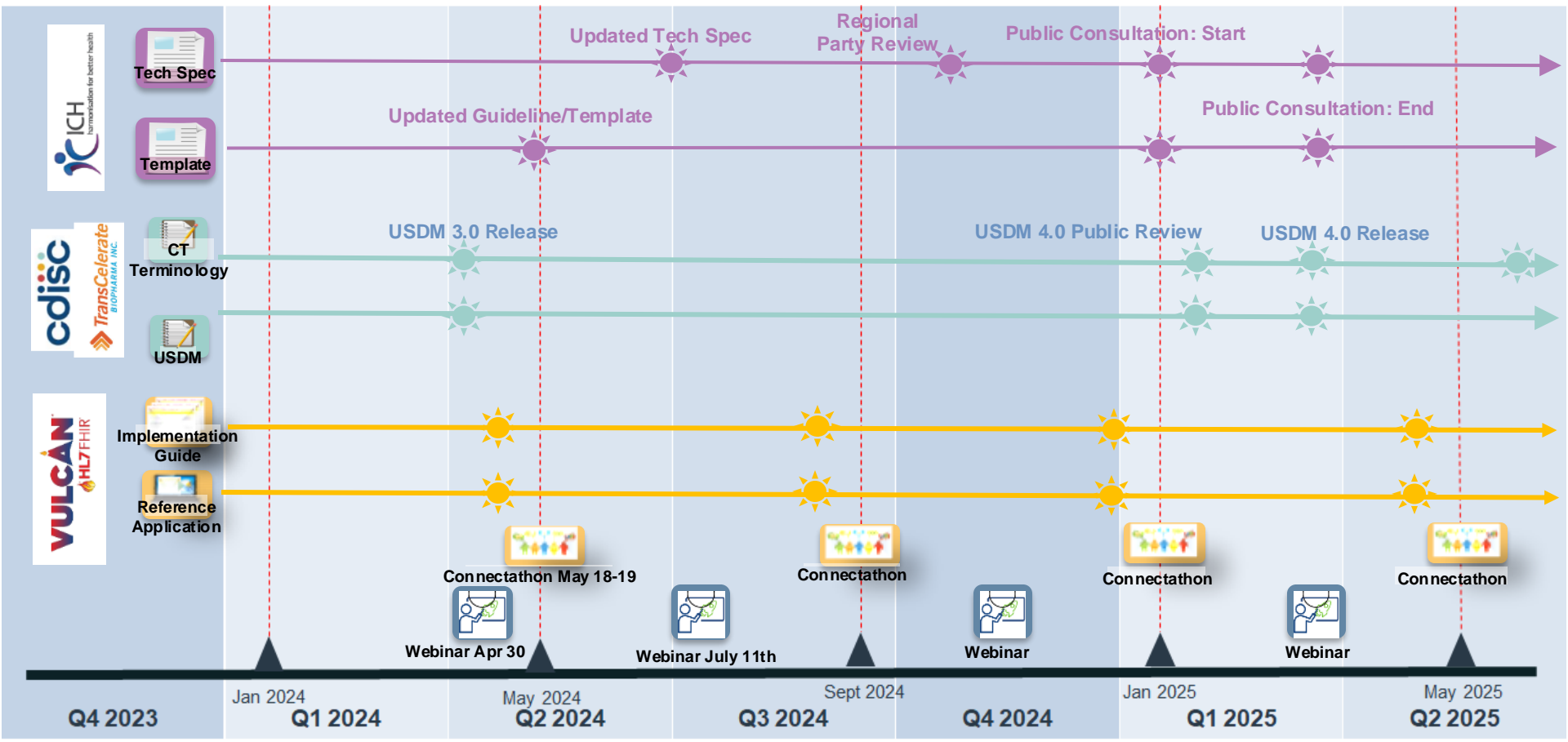
ICH M11 technical specification

Models, definitions

**FHIR will carry CDISC CT and USDM content**

**The technical specification can be used to develop other Implementation Guides**

# Timelines



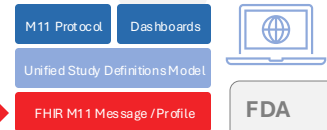
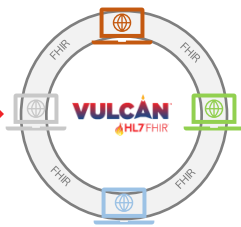
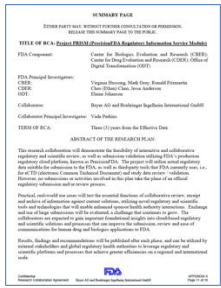
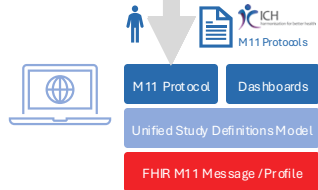
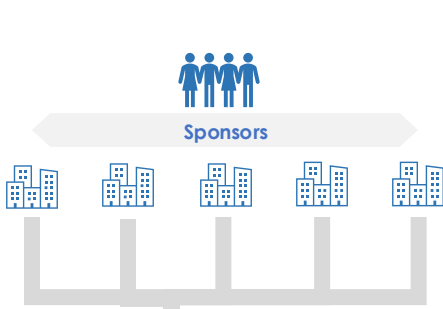
# PROJECT PRISM



A Regulatory Cloud Collaborative Initiative

precisionFDA Regulatory Information Service Module  
FDA-Industry Research Collaboration Agreement  
(Public-Private Partnership)

# PRISM USE CASE



**FDA**

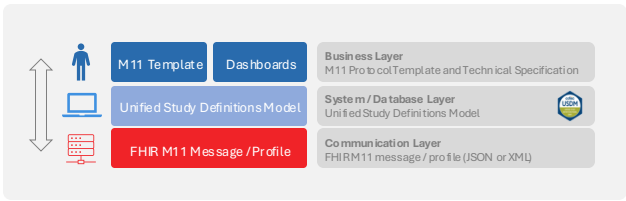
2

- FHIR → USDM → M11 Presentation
- Dashboards, what is possible?

**Sponsor**

1

- M11 '.docx' → USDM → FHIR
- Try and make it easy, "a few clicks"







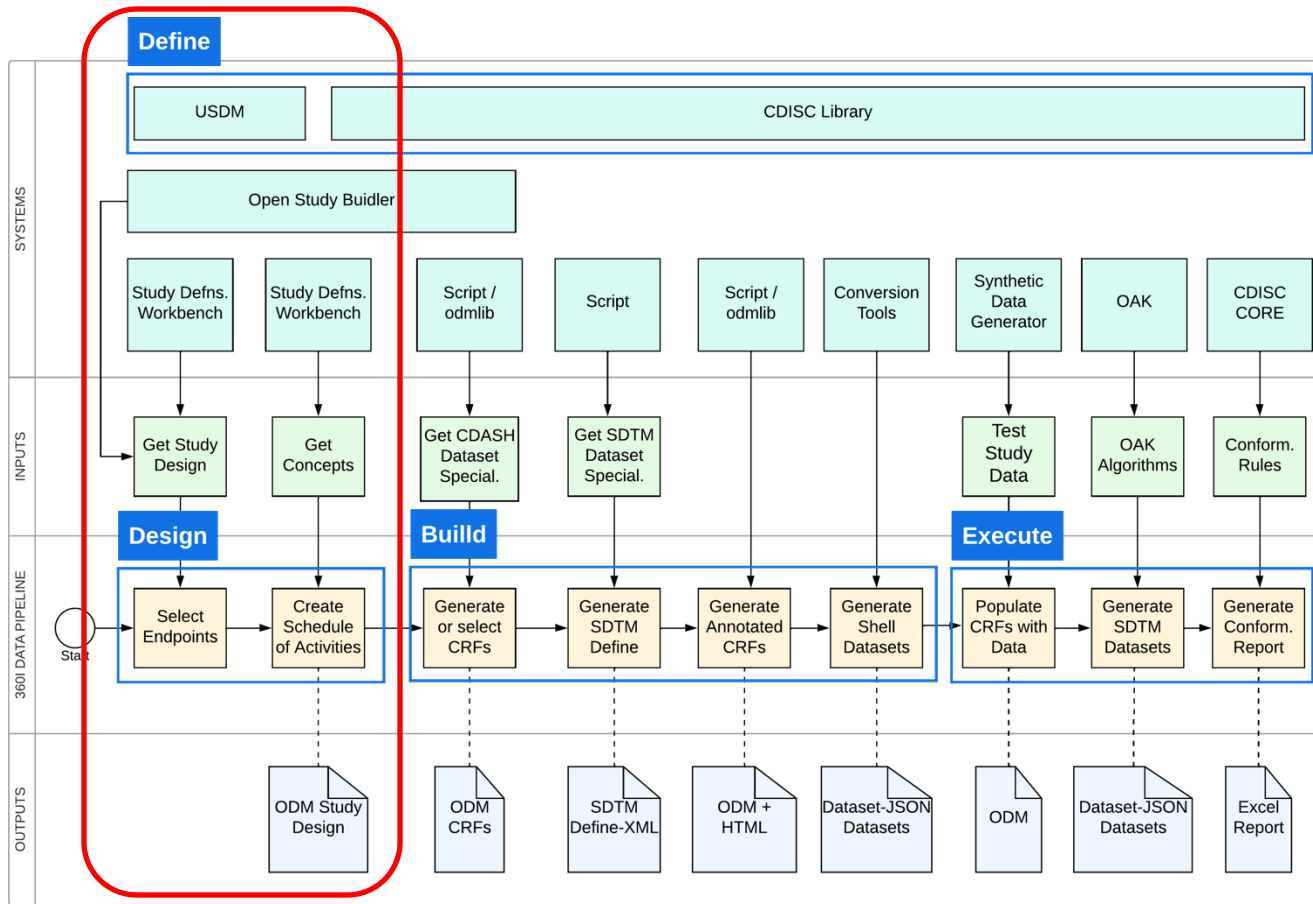
# CDISC 360i

- Define end to end standards
  - Digitalize information from protocol to reporting
  - Link concepts to representation standards
    - Forms definition, eDTs, DHT, SDTM specs, ADaM specs, TFL specs, ...
  - Enrich with transformation & derivation logic
- Study design & build
  - Select concept and concept groups in digital Schedule of Activities
  - Automates study builds
    - Forms definition, SDTM specs, ADaM specs, TFL specs, ...
  - Provides derivation & transformation algorithms
- Automate data flow
  - Demonstrate end to end automation
    - Starts with linking Schedule of Activities to Concepts (and Concept Groups)
  - Automates transformations & derivation between data states
    - Collection, tabulation, analysis, results



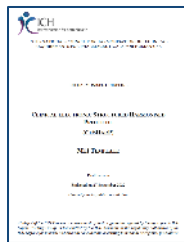
# CDISC 360i Phase 1: Generating SDTM

## Technical Process



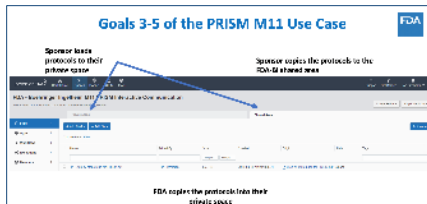
# Status

**ICH & M11 Specifications**  
 USDM being kept aligned with the ICH M11 work via close communication and development of M11 CT



- Phase Four Focus**
- 1 USDM Efficacy comments in the context of alignment with ICH M11 work via close communication and development of M11 CT
  - 2 Continued alignment of USDM with ICH M11
  - 3 Participation in the Utilizing the Digital Protocol (UDP) project with TransCelerate, IQ and HL7 Vulcan
  - 4 Continue development of USDM Performance Rules to support USDM v3.0 and v4.0
  - 5 Continue support and development of test cells and test tools
  - 6 Development of training and education materials in partnership with TransCelerate's Change and Engagement team to foster adoption of USDM

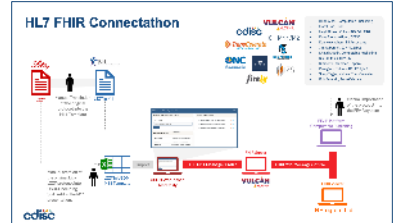
**USDM Phase 4**  
 Refine, improve, adopt



**FDA & PRISM**  
 Working with FDA to pilot first electronic transfer of an M11 protocol as well as tooling to support



**HL7 Vulcan & UDP**  
 Working with HL7 Vulcan to build FHIR message to support exchange of USDM / M11 content. Next connection is Atlanta, Sept 2024



**EMA & CTIS**  
 Working with EMA to align USDM with CTIS to facilitate work such as dashboards



**ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

Abstracts are due on July 19. Learn more about the submission process [here](#).

**DDF VENDOR SHOWCASE**  
 26 September

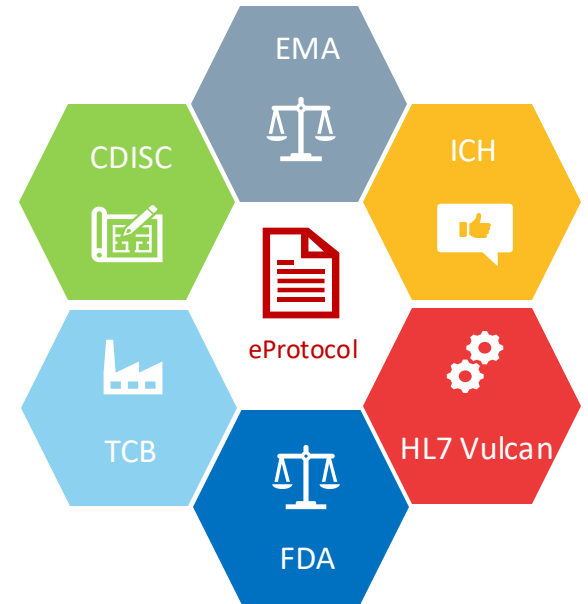
**DDF IN ACTION DAY**  
 10 October

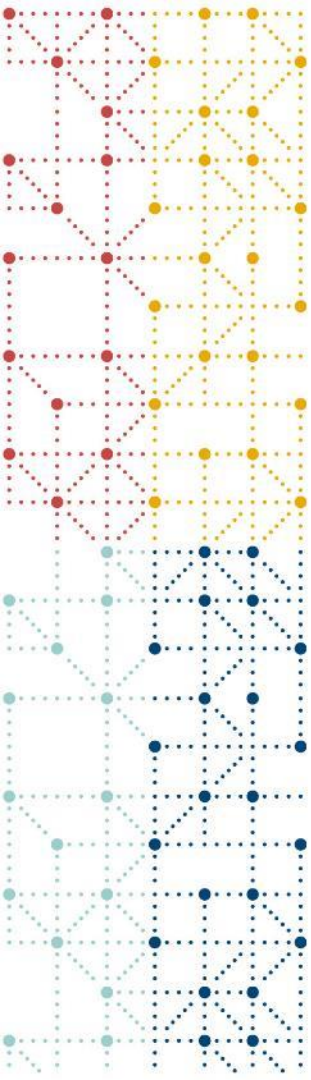
**TransCelerate & Adoption**  
 Several sponsors and vendors working with USDM. Latest adoption will be visible at the TransCelerate 'DDF in Action' day



# Summary

- Digitalizing protocol is well underway
- This collaboration will accelerate the operationalization of the digital protocol
- Sponsors and vendors have started to pilot and implement





**Thank You!**

