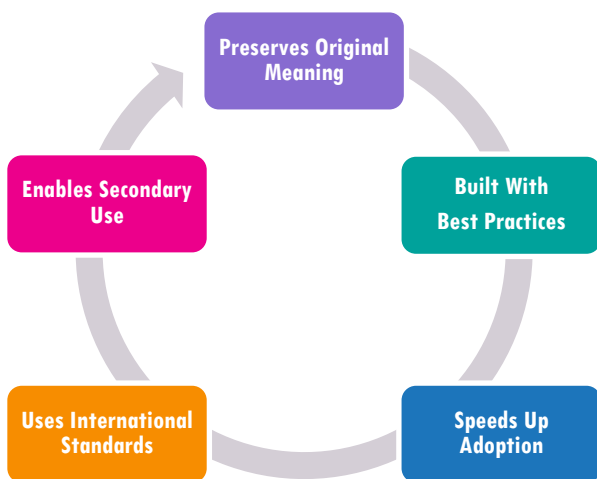




## Summary

Terminology standards provide the foundation for clinical information sharing and effective communication in health care. Standardized terminologies are required to efficiently share patient records in the interoperable electronic health record and for management of the increasing volume of electronic health information. Examples of Terminology Standards used in Canada include SNOMED CT, LOINC/pCLOCD, and ICD-10-CA/CCI.

## Why Terminology Standards Really Matter for Meaningful Data



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## Drivers for Health Terminology Standards

- Increased demands for accessibility of data (e.g. transitions across care, clinical decision support, etc.)
- Expanding clinical priorities to meet the aging population with limited resources
- Currently limited standardization and use of standards for health record content in a coordinated and collaborative manner
- Information sharing is complex and resource intensive, as multiple standards are in use within and across multiple sectors
- Opportunities for enhanced information governance and data governance with increased sharing of digital health information across broader health care organizations and providers

## Becoming a Certified Terminology Standards Specialist (CTSS)

Graduates from a CCHIM-accredited terminology standards program are eligible to apply to become Certified Terminology Standards Specialists (CTSS) through CCHIM. The Terminology Standards Certification is launching September 2019. For more information on how to become a Certified Terminology Standards Specialist, the maintenance requirements of the credential, and CHIMA membership benefits, please visit [echima.ca](http://echima.ca).

## Benefits of Terminology Standards Certification

- Standardized national curricular competencies aligned with industry
- Capstone project required to develop skills and solutions to current issues in industry
- Professional development requirement to maintain the currency of the credential
- Endorsement of terminology standards knowledge and professional experience at a national level
- Career advancement in terminology standards roles

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who should hold the Certified Terminology Standards Specialist (CTSS) Credential?

The terminology standards credential is for health care professionals who are passionate about data definitions, classifications and coding, EHR interoperability, data exchange and terminology standards, reference terminologies, and privacy and security. HIM® professionals currently working in terminology standards roles would benefit from obtaining this credential and be recognized by potential and current employers as skilled and knowledgeable professionals in the terminology standards field.

### What are the job opportunities in terminology standards?

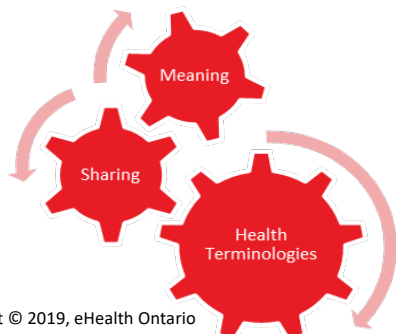
Terminology standards roles have increased in importance since the implementation of digital health systems and applications. The importance of relevant and accurate data in a digital health system reflects the increased importance of terminology standards roles. The increased use of terminology standards in digital health solutions has produced evolving roles, including:

- Senior Standards Analyst
- Terminology Specialist
- Clinical Terminology Standards Specialist
- And many more!

For a more complete list of terminology standards roles, please visit the Career Matrix Tool at <https://www.echima.ca/public/CareerMatrix/index.html>.

### Who employs terminology standards specialists?

- eHealth organizations across Canada
- Canada Health Infoway
- Private consulting firms
- Ministries/Agencies/Department of Health
- Hospitals
- And many more!



### What are the eligibility requirements to become a Certified Terminology Standards Specialist (CTSS)?

Graduates of a CCHIM-accredited terminology standards program (i.e. Health Terminology Standards Graduate Certificate Program University of Victoria\*) are eligible for the CCHIM to become a certified Terminology Standards Specialist (CTSS).

*\*The University of Victoria in British Columbia is the only CCHIM-accredited university for delivering terminology standards in Canada. This program is built for professionals working in the health sector and is intended to help meet national and international needs for best practices in controlled terminologies used in the health industry. There are four courses in the program, offered through a blended online course and in-person workshop, with an individual field capstone project. The program is designed to span one year.*

### What are the admission requirements for the Health Terminology Standards (HTS) Graduate Certificate Program?

Applicants are required to satisfy all regular admissions requirements of the University of Victoria's Faculty of Graduate Studies *and* have **one** of the following:

- Baccalaureate degree in health or information technology related field.
- Diploma in a health or information related field plus fifteen years related experience. Those who can demonstrate significant relevant professional expertise or experience that wish to pursue only the certificate option may be admitted if they are recommended by the school. Please contact Dr. Francis Lau at [fylau@uvic.ca](mailto:fylau@uvic.ca) for more information about the program and eligibility requirements.
- For more information about the HTS Graduate Certificate Program, please visit <https://www.uvic.ca/hsd/hinf/graduate/certificate/index.php>.

For more information, please visit our Terminology Standards Certification webpage at <https://www.echima.ca/cchim/terminology-standards-certification>.