

# RxNorm - The Standard and Foundation of Decision Support and Medication Reconciliation

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# 7 Minute Outline

- RxNorm Defined
  - the recommended standard clinical drug nomenclature
- Interoperability Defined
- Interoperability and RxNorm
- Hierarchy of IT and Pharmacy Practice
- Must do's

# What is Interoperability?

- Interoperability is the ability of different information technology systems and software applications to communicate, to **exchange** data accurately, effectively, and consistently, and to **use** the information that has been exchanged\*

*\*NAHIT*

# Interoperability Scenarios

- Mom sending kid to school – wants cumulative immunization record
- Moving from Los Angeles to Boston – wants to transfer electronic medical record data
- Comparing management of asthmatics in 2 hospitals
- Is Boston seeing an increased rate of GI symptoms?
- The outpatient medication list can be used as a starting point for the inpatient medication list

# Motivation for Interoperability

- **Providers have incomplete knowledge of their patients, resulting in errors and lower quality of care**
  - Medicare beneficiaries see 1.3 – 13.8 unique providers annually, on average 6.4 different providers/yr
  - Patient data unavailable in 81% of cases
    - an average of 4 missing items per case.
  - 18% of medical errors are estimated to be due to inadequate availability of patient information.
- **Estimated 90% of the 30B healthcare transactions in the US every year are conducted via mail, fax, or phone**

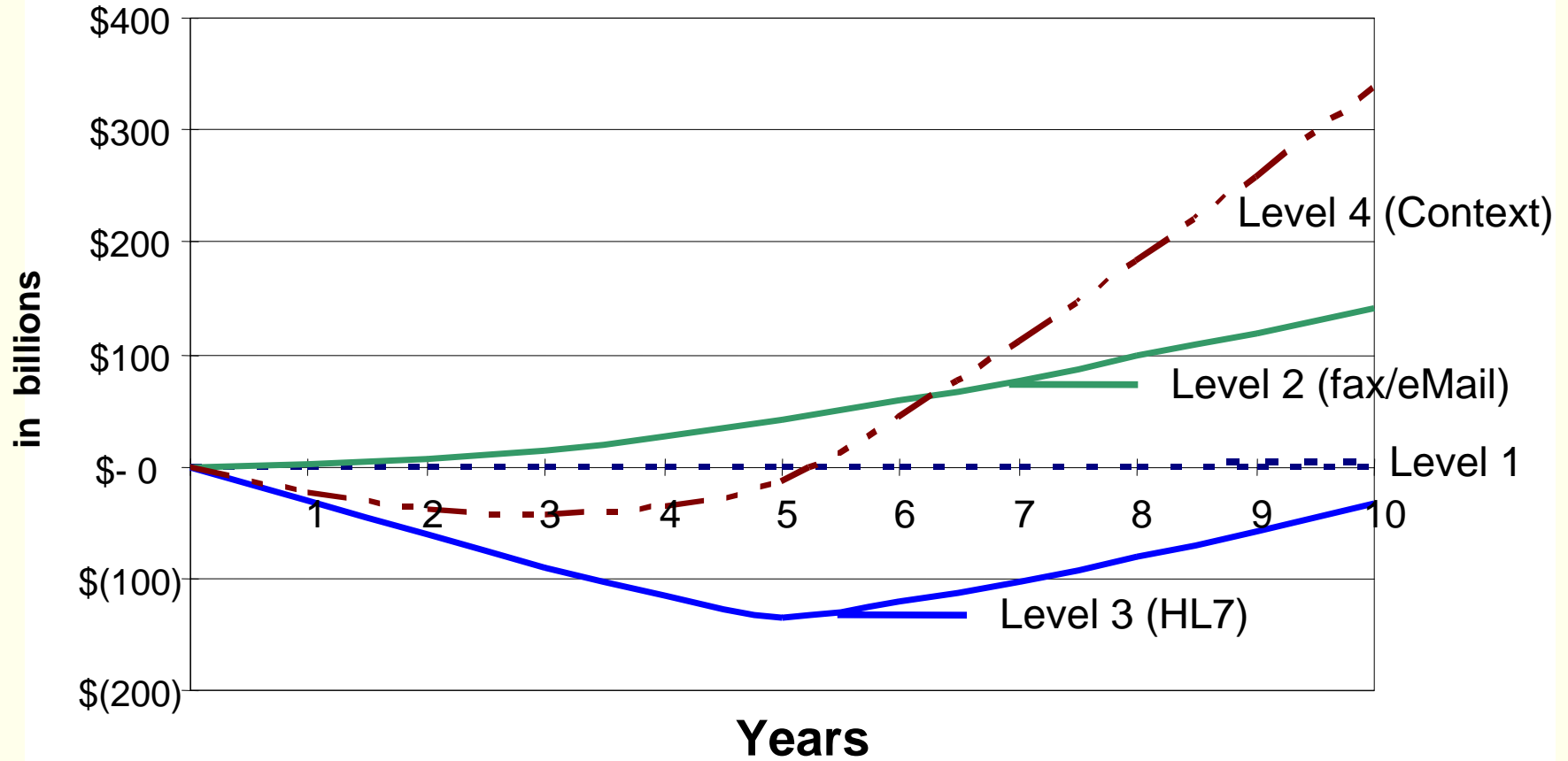
# Systemic Interoperability Taxonomy\*

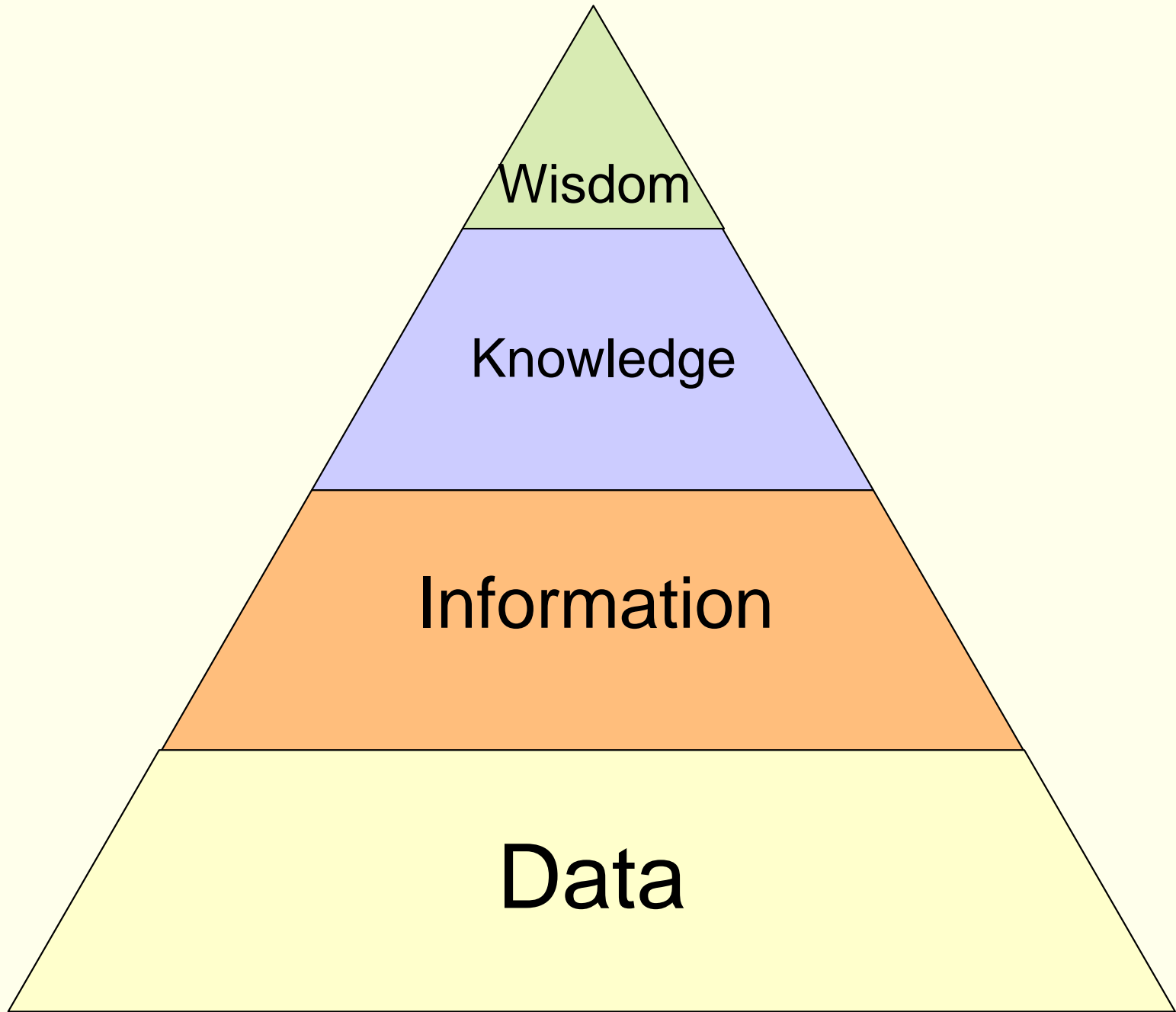
Level	Description	Examples
1	Non-electronic data	No PC/information technology
2	Machine-transportable data	Fax/Email
3	Machine-organizable data	Structured messages, non-standard content/data
4	Machine-interpretable data	Structured messages, standardized content/data

\*CITL Report on Healthcare Information Exchange and Interoperability

# 10-Year Cumulative Net Return

**RxNorm is the path to level 4**





Wisdom

Knowledge

Information

Data

Wisdom



La...ds  
 Clinical Credentialing  
 M...4)  
 Clinic...port

Unified Medication List & Hx  
 Level 4 Unified Medication List  
 Integration of Ambulatory and Inpatient  
 NCPDP Claims / eRx / eHx

**Clinical Drug = RxNorm**

Drug Classification = VA NDF-RT Reference

Drug Product = National Drug Code (NDC)

Dosage form and package = FDA/CDER data standard

Active Ingredient = FDA Unique Ingredient Identifier (UNII) code

**Information**  
  
**Data**

# Recommendations

- Insist, No
- Demand RxNorm compatibility

Thank you

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