Simple Graphical Representations of Ontology-based Clinical Decision Support Knowledge Assets

Margarita Sordo, Christopher J. Vitale, Priyaranjan Tokachichu, Dan Bogaty, Saverio M. Maviglia, Roberto A. Rocha

Partners eCare, Partners Healthcare System, Boston, MA, USA
Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, MA
Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA
Challenges in Healthcare (1)

• Healthcare knowledge is complex
• Knowledge assets serve a wide variety of clinical needs
  – Forms
  – Notifications & alerts
  – Decision rules
  – Guidelines
  – Order sets
  – Dose calculators
Challenges in Healthcare (2)

• Users have different needs in terms of understanding ontology-based clinical content
• Need simple representations for modeling and curating complex clinical knowledge
• Convey the necessary information for users to piece together the individual (simpler) parts of a composite model
• Essential for ensuring quality, safety and efficacy of healthcare.
Why Such a Complex Model?

If we represent the logic of a rule as a string, we cannot

– Validate the elements of the expression
– Use elements as semantic tags indexed to reference terminologies
– Use concepts from reference terminologies as part of the logic
– Share clinical content and ensure other parties will capture the same meaning
– Search for similar assets

If “Cholesterol > 30 mg/dL” then Alert level 2
Why Such a Complex Model?

Our model allows us

– Validate the elements of the expression
– Use elements as semantic tags indexed to reference terminologies
– Use concepts from reference terminologies as part of the logic
– Share clinical content and ensure other parties will capture the same meaning
– Search for similar assets

If [Cholesterol] [>] [30] [mg/dL] then [Alert level 2]
EVERYTHING SHOULD BE MADE AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT SIMPLER

ALBERT EINSTEIN
Simple Graphical Representations

- “Simple is better”
- Data visualization is a medium for presenting content
- Identify the purpose of the graph
- Separate crucial information from ‘noise’
- Right level of detail
- Avoid overload, clutter and confusion
Clinical Decision Support Production Rule Schema

- Too ‘crowded’
- Better to show only high level nodes
Clinical Decision Support Production Rule Schema

- Less nodes, but if the schema is a type hierarchy...
- Is this the right display?
Clinical Decision Support Production Rule Schema

This is more intuitive and shows a hierarchical order
Clinical Decision Support Production Rule Schema
Generic Properties

We focus on Provenance
Clinical Decision Support Production Rule Schema

Generic Properties

We focus on Provenance
Then on Constraints
Clinical Decision Support Production Rule Schema
Generic Properties

Then on **Constraints**

[Diagram showing entities and relationships related to clinical decision support and constraints.]
Clinical Decision Support Production Rule Schema
Specific Properties

- Constraints
- Provenance
- Logic Expression
- ...
Clinical Decision Support Production Rule Schema

If <Logic Expression> then <Action>
Viewing an Instance of a Production Rule

- **Threshold**: Number 30
- **Operator**: > comparison
- **Unit of measure**: mcg/mL
- **Antecedent**: If Caffeine > 30 mcg/mL then Alert 2
- **Consequent**: Action Alert 2
- **Data element type**: Double data element
- **Unit of measure**: mcg/mL
Summary

- Simple graphs focus on what is being communicated
- Removed “spurious” information
- Balanced level of detail
- Avoid visual and cognitive overload
Thank you!