What is Coding

• Taking a reported term and assigning it a standard medical term / drug name

• Drug coding

• Disease / event coding
Why Coding?

- Data can be collectively analysed and reported
- Standardised reporting for regulators
Dictionaries Used

- AE/Disease terms
  - MedDRA
  - WHOART
- Drug terms
  - WHODDE
  - Local dictionaries
How to Code

• **Accurate**
  > Coding to the closest possible term

• **Consistent**
  > Similar reported terms are all coded the same way

• No under / over coding
Accuracy

- It is possible to be accurate without being consistent
- (each reported term appears to be coded correctly when viewed by itself, but when grouped with like reported terms the coding differs among the like terms).
Consistency

• Likewise, it is possible to be consistent in coding but be inaccurate (like terms are all coded to the same dictionary entry, but the chosen dictionary entry is not the best possible choice).
### Examples

**Accuracy without Consistency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported Term</th>
<th>MedDRA LLT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SKIN LESIONS DUE TO PORPHYRIA</td>
<td>PORPHYRIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKIN LESIONS CAUSED BY PORPHYRIA</td>
<td>SKIN LESION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported Term</td>
<td>MedDRA LLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIAL HEAT</td>
<td>-&gt; FEELING HOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACIAL HEATING</td>
<td>-&gt; FEELING OF WARMTH FACIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACE HOT</td>
<td>-&gt; FEELING HOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOT FACE</td>
<td>-&gt; FEELING OF WARMTH FACIAL</td>
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### Examples

**Consistency without Accuracy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENDOMETRIAL STROMAL TUMOR</td>
<td>ENDOMETRIAL STROMAL SARCOMA</td>
</tr>
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The coding for both is inaccurate, however, because a sarcoma is a very specific type of tumour and one cannot arbitrarily assume that the tumours being reported are in fact sarcomas. ENDOMETRIAL NEOPLASM NOS would be a better choice for these two terms (better to select a less specific but correct term than a more specific but incorrect term like ENDOMETRIAL STROMAL SARCOMA).
Under coding

- Coding to a general (less specific) LLT when a much more specific LLT is available
  > Coder with less experience
  > auto coding
Under coding

- **INCREASE OF DIASTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE**
- to the LLT of:
  - **BLOOD PRESSURE INCREASED**
  - **BLOOD PRESSURE DIASTOLIC INCREASED**
### BLOOD PRESSURE INCREASING, NO RESPONSE TO MEDS

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>SOC</th>
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<tr>
<td>CHANGE IN BLOOD PRESSURE</td>
<td>BLOOD PRESSURE FLUCTUATION</td>
<td>VASCULAR DISORDERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLOOD PRESSURE INCREASED</td>
<td>BLOOD PRESSURE INCREASED</td>
<td>INVESTIGATIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLOOD PRESSURE INCREASED REFRACTORY</td>
<td>HYPERTENSION</td>
<td>VASCULAR DISORDERS</td>
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</table>
Under Coding

• Coding to an LLT that ignores unique information contained within the reported term

• CORONARY ATHEROSCLEROSIS WITH RECURRENT ANGINA PECTORIS to the LLT of:
   CORONARY ATHEROSCLEROSIS

   Rather than requesting site to split
Over coding

- Coding to an LLT that is contains more information than is contained in the reported term (i.e. adding information to the reported term)
  > Coder with less experience
to the LLT of:

- **LOBAR PNEUMONIA**

under the mistaken belief that *LOBE* and *LOBAR* are synonymous. Lobar pneumonia, however, is a specific type of pneumonia
EXCESSIVE SUDATION

??? was a misspelling of SEDATION and code it erroneously to the LLT of:
• SEDATION EXCESSIVE

In fact, sudation is defined in Dorland's as "sweating," meaning the reported term should be coded instead to the LLT of:
• EXCESS SWEATING
MedDRA highly specific

- Many many LLT

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- will cause them to be classified simply as investigations.
In summary

• For now – leave it to the specialists
  >Check their coding
  >Reconcile on verbatim
  >Auto-load in separate panel
• Long term - inhouse
  >medical background
  >Trained
  >Follow strict coding conventions
  >Clindex to code within