Data Catalog Governance Coverage

A data catalog is a central inventory describing data assets across the organization. It ensures users can locate, understand, and trust the data they work with. In healthcare, a well-governed catalog links data to business meaning, stewardship roles, and compliance controls.

Key Governance Domains

1. Clinical Encounters

Definition: Records of patient visits, diagnoses, and treatments.
Governance Focus: Standardized encounter types, CPT/ICD coding accuracy, and linkage to episodes of care.
Quality Control: Validate encounter completeness and visit date accuracy.

2. Financial Transactions

Definition: Claims, payments, adjustments, and capitation records.
Governance Focus: Alignment with accounting standards, transparent cost attribution, and reconciliation with encounter data.
Quality Control: Ensure transaction integrity, detect duplicates, and validate against contract rules.

3. Quality Metrics

Definition: Calculated indicators such as HEDIS or CCBHC performance measures.
Governance Focus: Document formulas, data sources, and numerator/denominator definitions.
Quality Control: Version control of measure definitions and audit trail for recalculations.

4. Member Demographics

Definition: Data on age, gender, race, ethnicity, language, and eligibility.
Governance Focus: Accuracy, timeliness, and adherence to privacy regulations (HIPAA).
Quality Control: Regular validation and deduplication to maintain a single member record.

Governance Best Practices

- Assign Data Owners and Stewards for each domain.
- Maintain business definitions and data lineage in the catalog.
- Implement quality scoring and change control for key fields.
- Enforce access policies and audit logging for sensitive data.

A mature catalog links every data element to its governance domain, ensuring accountability and compliance across the data lifecycle.