

Proper use of “none known” in global exclusion statements

Global exclusion statement is a common pattern in CDA clinical documents and all of them have three codes:

- None known
- Not asked
- None supplied

This FAQ clarifies the meaning of each code and the circumstances under which they might be used.

*** Using the codes correctly is essential to avoid a clinical safety risk ***

None known

This is a positive clinical statement indicating that investigation has not found any of the following:

- For allergies: the patient or patient’s agent/guardian has asserted that he/she is not aware of any allergies (NKA – nil known allergies)
- For medications: the patient or patient’s agent/guardian has asserted that the patient is known to be taking no medications
- For diagnoses, problems and procedures: the patient or patient’s agent/guardian has asserted that there is no known event to record.

Note that this is a clarification of the general description “No information [X] is known” provided in the structured content specification (SCS).

‘None known’ is also known as ‘nil known’ and other language is sometimes used, such as ‘no significant allergies known’.

The lack of clarity in the SCS has led to implementers choosing “none known” as the default global statement code, but *it is important that this code is reserved for clinical use to mean that there really is nothing known.*

Not asked

This is an affirmation from a clinical user that they have not been able to ask the patient (for whatever reason).

None supplied

This is the default position to be used when:

- The patient or the clinical user choose to withhold information.
- The database lists nothing for the code, but it is not known whether the other two codes apply.

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