



About FHA

The Federal Health Architecture (FHA) is an E-Government Line of Business (LoB) initiative designed to bring together the decision makers in federal health IT for inter-agency collaboration — resulting in effective health information exchange (HIE), enhanced interoperability among federal health IT systems and efficient coordination of shared services. FHA also supports federal agency adoption of nationally-recognized standards and policies for efficient, secure HIE.

Established as an Office of Management and Budget E-Government LoB in 2004, FHA reaches out to more than 20 federal agencies to advance the national agenda for health IT. Current partners include the Department of Health and Human Services (Managing Partner), including the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Indian Health Services; Office of Management and Budget, Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration.

Moving Ahead in 2014

FHA is focusing on the following precepts in order to better support and advance the national agenda for health IT:



Capture (Architect federal HIT)

- Provide a structured description of the federal health landscape
- Harmonize elements from authoritative references (federated architecture)



Analyze (Gap/Overlap Analyses to derive streamlined and Shared Service Opportunities)

- Identify gaps in Health Information Exchanges (HIE) approaches
- Guide decision makers on programmatic and strategic initiatives, and processes



Design (Promote, oversee, coach, pilot potential Shared Services)

- Support federal HIE standards and policy implementation and interoperability
- Purposefully arrange architecture elements (e.g., information, terminology, value sets) for optimal discovery and use by federal partners



Communicate (Facilitate information sharing to convene best approaches)

- Convey federal position & understanding of complex health interdependencies
- Support agencies' budget requests in the health space
- Coordinate federal participation in FHA and Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT workgroups

You can also visit the FHA website at www.healthit.gov/fha.

Current Innovative Initiatives

CONNECT

FHA is working with the federal partners to develop and implement CONNECT, a software solution that enables the secure, efficient exchange of health information, in their health IT environments. FHA also serves as a liaison between its federal partners and Open Health Tools, an open source community that manages the code and governance of CONNECT, to encourage collaboration with the private sector.

In order to communicate the development of CONNECT to the federal partner community, FHA has created a workgroup that meets weekly, from 10:30-11:30AM ET.

For more information about the workgroup, please contact John Forrester at federal.health@hhs.gov.

For more information about CONNECT and how to participate in the open source community, visit wiki.connectopensource.org.

Directed Exchange

FHA's Directed Exchange Workgroup is a collaborative effort involving FHA's federal partners. The mission of the workgroup is to identify obstacles that would hinder full participation in Direct by federal agencies through the review of existing security policy requirements that all federal agencies must follow as well as agency-specific policies. The workgroup meets bi-weekly.

For more information about this workgroup, please contact Eric Larson at federal.health@hhs.gov.

Health Information Modeling

FHA created the Health Information Modeling Work Group to address topics related to architecture and modeling that impact its federal partner community. One of the topics addressed in this WG that is also a priority area for the federal partners is the Federal Health Information Model (FHIM). FHIM is a tool that some federal agencies are using to support interoperability between health information exchange (HIE) systems. It is designed to harmonize content (information, terminologies and value sets) across federal agencies and standards organizations, integrate with open source Model Driven Health Tools (MDHT), and generate exchange implementation standards for multiple implementation platforms (PSMs). In order to broaden its reach and better support interoperability, it is also engaging with the Standards & Interoperability Framework -- a community of public and private entities focused on facilitating the exchange of health information. Through the S&I Framework, the FHIM is supporting federal health IT priority activities including Meaningful Use and Blue Button Plus in order to advance healthcare.

For more information about this WG, please contact Steve Wagner at federal.health@hhs.gov.

Healthcare Directory

FHA created the Healthcare Directory Workgroup (WG) in order to identify methods to facilitate finding Electronic Service Information (ESI) for organizations and individuals responsible for the delivery and administration of healthcare. This WG also works to identify standards that should be applied to Healthcare Directories, and encourages federal agencies to adopt these standards in order to securely access Healthcare Directory information to facilitate the sharing of ESI. The workgroup meets bi-weekly.

For more information about this WG, please contact John Forrester at federal.health@hhs.gov.

Patient Consent & Authorization

FHA created the Patient Consent & Authorization WG in order to identify common approaches to effectively managing Patient Consent and Authorization for access to patient information. The group also identifies and encourages the use of standards for the structure of the information, queries and responses, maintenance of the information, security for the transaction(s) and a viable approach to federation, if required. The workgroup meets bi-weekly.

For questions about this SWG, please contact John Forrester at federal.health@hhs.gov.



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LinkedIn (Federal Health Architecture group)!

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