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Health Information Technology

Inside the Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA)

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Collaboration of the Health IT Policy and Standards Committees
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- The [new online ISA](#) represents a significant, positive shift.

- Delivering updated content through an interactive web-based platform.

- Providing a community-wide, centrally accessible resource to standards and implementation specifications.

- Accommodating Mid-year (July 2016) Task Force recommendations:

  » The ISA should evolve to a more dynamic experience for users:

    – Link to or embed content from websites like the ONC [Interoperability Proving Ground](#) demonstrating interoperability use cases

    – Enable viewing of public comments and ONC responses in the context of which standards/interoperability needs they pertain

    – Link to known profiling entities which coordinate standards listed in ISA to address specific clinical needs and use cases.

    – Link to published assessments of a particular standard's maturity

    – Link listed value sets to their publication in VSAC

- Public Feedback

  » Use an interactive online platform that encourages more participation

  » Provide more transparency to the process

  » Enable more timely updates

- Public can comment on each page.

- Comments can be quickly posted for all to see.

- Additional comments can be made about/on top of other comments in a threaded format.

- Ability to word search across the ISA.

- Ability to print the ISA completely or by individual pages.

New Process

- A shift in the timeline and annual publication cycle

- ONC will annually publish a static "Reference Edition" of the ISA that can be referenced in contracts, agreements, or as otherwise needed with certainty that the information will not change.

  » A call for public comments is still expected to occur annually to ensure the published Reference Edition is as accurate as possible.

- The web-based version of the ISA is expected to be updated frequently throughout the year.

  » Reflect real-time updates to standards and implementation specifications from standards development organizations (SDOs).

  » Allow dialogue and debate between stakeholders about the ISA's interoperability needs, standards, and implementation specifications.

  » Allow for continuous feedback from stakeholders to reflect changes in the standards landscape.

  » To provide corrections to any factual errors.

  » Specific SMEs have ownership of subsections of the ISA that are empowered to analyze public comments and make changes as necessary based on SOPs.

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Content Changes

- **The most substantial changes between the 2016 and the 2017 includes:**

  » The discontinued use of the label "best available" as an overall concept

  » Changing the scope of the ISA to include more specific references to research and public health.

  » Including Personal Health Device, Nursing, Research, Nutritional Health, and Social Determinant interoperability needs within the ISA.

  » Adding a new section that begins to include Functional and Data Models as well as Functional Profiles.

  » Where applicable, the addition of "Applicable Starter Set(s)" alongside appropriate code sets in Section I.

  » Links to active projects listed in ONC's Interoperability Proving Ground

  » Better representation of the pairing of standards for observations (i.e., questions) and standards for observation values (i.e., answers).

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Future Changes to the ISA

- **Functionally**

  » Exploring changes to make the ISA more interactive

    – Filtering and/or sorting the standards and implementation specs

    – Sign-up for alerts when changes are made to specific areas of the ISA

    – Obtain feedback from "polls" and/or other easy feedback mechanisms (yes/no buttons)

- **Content**

  » Obtain ongoing recommendations from the Standards Committee through the Task Force

  » Better address interoperability needs for Consumer/Patient Access

  » Future growth in the new "Models and Profiles" section

  » Anticipate a continuation of more granular reference to FHIR resources, profiles, and implementation guides

  » Continued growth in interoperability needs

  » Improve upon how privacy and security is addressed

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