# Federal Health Architecture

Established as an Office of Management and Budget E-Gov Line of Business (LoB) in 2004, the Federal Health Architecture (FHA) program supports federal activities related to the development and adoption of health IT standards. FHA also ensures that federal agencies seamlessly and securely exchange health data with other agencies and government entities, and with other public and private organizations.

Today, FHA is working with more than 20 federal partners to emphasize federal advancement of the national agenda for health IT, and provide enterprise architecture, standards adoption, tools and communications support across federal agencies.

## Moving Ahead in 2014

FHA is focusing on the following areas of strategy and architecture in order to better support and advance the national agenda for health IT:

### Governance
- Enhance strategic alignment within and across federal partner agencies
- Provide greater transparency and enhanced communications for the federal community
- Commit to fulfilling original intent of FHA as an E-Gov LoB

### Strategy Planning
- Establish a unified federal voice on health data exchange and interoperability
- Achieve adoption of interoperability specifications, leading to active data exchange in the federal health community
- Align federal policies in healthcare data exchange

### Interoperability Architecture
- Identify current and planned data exchanges among federal agencies and partners
- Communicate with stakeholders through a FHA public-facing portal
- Align with standards harmonization efforts (e.g. Standards and Interoperability Framework)
- Demonstrate exchange methods beyond Direct and Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)

### Open Source Community Development
- FHA is working with the CONNECT community to move CONNECT, an open source product designed to enable secure health information exchange, to the open source environment for governance and code maintenance. This is a major milestone for FHA and the CONNECT community as this change will allow more users to take advantage of CONNECT for their exchange requirements. Members of the community will also have more flexibility in enhancing the product to further support their needs

**For more information about CONNECT and how to participate in the open source community, visit http://www.connectopensource.org.**

## Current Innovative Initiatives

### *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.

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

### *Healthcare Directory*

FHA created the Healthcare Directory Sub-Workgroup (SWG) as a part of its Data Exchange & Interoperability Workgroup in order to identify methods to facilitate finding Electronic Service Information (ESI) for organizations and individuals responsible for the delivery and administration of health care. This SWG 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 sharing of ESI.

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

### *Patient Consent & Authorization*

FHA created the Patient Consent & Authorization SWG as part of its Data Exchange & Interoperability Workgroup 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.
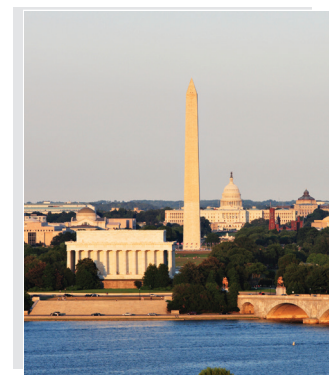
For questions about this SWG, please contact John Forrester at federal.health@hhs.gov.

## STAY CONNECTED

Stay abreast of FHA activities and programs on
Twitter (@ONC_FHA) and LinkedIn (Federal Health Architecture group)!

You can also sign up to receive FHA updates and The Pulse,
FHA's e-newsletter, and view the FHA blog on
http://www.connectopensource.org.

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