

The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology



HIMSS National HIE Roundtable

Provider Directories

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Putting the **I** in Health **IT**
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- Technical Update (Rahn)
- Policy Update (Rancourt)

Technical Update

- Goals and Process

- Goals

- To identify and improve PD standards that will help with various clinical work flows where end point addresses and security information has to be discovered.

- End point addresses include individuals and organization addresses

- Process

- Open Process, All calls open to public, all feedback and dispositions are made publicly available

- Real-world Implementers of specifications consulted during the artifact development process

Modular Specification Provider Directory Project

- Artifacts Developed



- Implementable, Testable, Certifiable:
 - Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)
 - Implementation Guide (IG)
 - Platform independent test cases
- Create a Test Implementation (TI) based on RTM and the test cases
 - Available for download as open source
 - Has the following components
 - A Provider Directory implementation based on the RTM
 - A downloadable Test Tool to test conformance of a Provider Directory conforming to the RTM
 - An online instantiation of the test tool as a cloud service for vendors to test as needed.
- Other developer friendly artifacts include
 - UML class diagrams explaining the data models
 - Documentation to help implementers understand underlying technology requirements
 - Links to PD related work performed by various pilots and organizations in the real-world

Modular Specification Provider Directory Project

- Environment Scan Results (PD Queries)



- Multiple environment scans were performed at different times over the past year, the following were identified as deficiencies
 - Federation Facilitation
 - Absence of a centralized authoritative provider directory requires federation capability (within and across organizations) to use existing authoritative directories so that electronic addresses of providers and their systems can be discovered during workflows
 - Error Handling
 - Provide ability for a client to implement local policies and workflows based on complete/incomplete responses received
 - Lack of single specifications for vendors to target (IHE HPD and its versions, EHR|IWG HPD Plus and its versions)

- Modular Specification PD project performed the following
 - Added Federation capabilities to the HPD specification
 - Add Error Handling to the HPD specification
 - Coordinated across the various organizations to harmonize towards a single specification
 - Collaborated with NYeC on the PD pilots and obtained support from EHR|IWG representatives to work with ONC on a single specification
 - Submitted changes to IHE HPD to add federation and error handling
 - IHE ITI Technical committee approved to add the Federation and Error Handling as a National Extension under the auspices of IHE USA.

Policy Update

Voluntary 2015 Edition EHR Certification Proposed Rule addresses provider directories:

- “In collaboration with IHE we believe that a new HPD standard will be ready in early 2014 that will support federated querying of provider directories.”
- “We believe that the updated HPD standard will be ready to propose for adoption as part of the 2017 Edition rulemaking and included in a certification criterion focused on capabilities to query provider directories.”

- “We seek public comment on the following potential capabilities we are considering for such a certification criterion: At a minimum, EHR technology would need to be able to query provider directories for the following information and electronically process the response returned in accordance with the MSPD IG requirements (which are expected to be adopted by IHE USA as an IHE USA profile):
 - Query for an individual provider;
 - Query for an organizational provider;
 - Query for relationships between individual providers and organizational providers.”

- Comments are due April 28, 2014.
- Comment different ways:
 - Regulations.gov
 - Mail
 - Hand Delivery
- The [proposed rule](#) and [minor corrections](#) can be found on Regulations.gov.
- Links to all relevant documents as well as the public comment template can be found on [HealthIT.gov](#).

- Much progress has been made on technical interoperability; next steps are to achieve policy “interoperability.”
- ONC has begun internal thinking and done preliminary research on the topic.

- Provider Directory Community of Practice created a document entitled “Key Considerations Related to Policies for Interoperable, Federated Provider Directories”
 - Not a public document, ONC aims to make a version public in the future.
- Meant to understand the considerations involved in provider directory policies, not dictate policy.
- General categories of some key considerations:
 - Overarching considerations, such as terminology.
 - ESI collection and maintenance policies
 - Quality of data
 - Permitted purposes
 - Scalability
 - Directory intermediaries.

- Previous statements related to provider directory policies:
 - ONC sought comment on a potential condition for trusted exchange that entities “must provide open access to the directory services it provides.”
 - See [RFI: Nationwide Health Information Network: Conditions for Trusted Exchange](#) (May 15, 2012).
 - ONC encouraged “open” directories via the State HIE Program.

- Discussion and questions.

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