HALO Working Group Meeting

Meeting Summary

Meeting Chair: Alex Reis			
Date and Time June 23, 2025,1:00pm – 2:30pm ET	**Location** Virtual	**Note Taker** Sadrina Petit, Project Analyst, Digital Health Interoperability	**Next Meeting Date** July 7, 2025,1:00pm-2:30pm ET
Meeting Agenda: 1. CO- Chair Update 2. App Launch Overview 3. App Launch Deep Dive – In Simplifier 4. Q&A / Collaboration			
Presenters			
• Alex Reis | Director, Digital Health Interoperability, Canada Health Infoway • Colin Kent-Shepherd | Software Architect, Hamilton Health Sciences			
Invited Guests			
Public			

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1. Welcome and Introductions

A. Reis welcomed all participants to the working group meeting and introduced Colin Kent-Shepherd. Meeting materials and recording of the session will be made available on the InfoCentral working group.

2. Content Presentation

The Infoway team presented each of the agenda items as outlined above. The meeting covered how the HALO framework extends SMART on FHIR to support both standard and accelerator flows, enhancing interoperability. The app-launch process includes generating a launch identifier, querying the well-known SMART configuration endpoint, and exchanging an authorization code for an access token. The session also discussed the set-context operation, which pre-populates the SOFA server with resources to ensure proper access control.

The presentation deck is available HALO Working Group Meeting

The video recording is available HALO Working Group Meeting

Questions raised during the working group meeting:

What is the expected deployment level for SOFA FHIR servers?

The blueprint assumes provincial-level deployment, but SOFA is extensible and could be stood up at smaller scopes (e.g., regional health authorities) if a jurisdiction prefers.

How does data get into SOFA, how long does it stay, and who can see it?

- **Population mechanism:** The POC (e.g., EMR) uses the `set-context` operation to push its own local resources into the jurisdictional SOFA FHIR server for a given session.
- **Lifespan:** These resources are temporary and session-specific—SOFA is not a long-term data warehouse.
- **Access control:** Only the user who initiated `set-context` (and the smart app launched in that session) can access those resources; they are bucketed under the session's unique launch identifier.

Can SMART on FHIR (and HALO) support instance-level access controls, such as highly confidential Observations?

Open Authorization scopes in SMART on FHIR work at the resource-type level; they do not convey per-instance permissions. Instance-level rules (e.g., via `meta.security`) must be enforced inside the FHIR server or vendor system rather than through scopes.

Does HALO support the optional "finer-grained" SMART scopes that use FHIR search parameters?

Not in this release. HALO excludes those finer-grained scopes because they add significant complexity for POC implementers. A limited subset may be revisited in future versions if there's strong justification.

What do `user/` and `patient/` scopes allow?

- `user/Observation.read` lets the app read any Observation resources the logged-in user is already authorized to see on that FHIR server.
- `patient/Observation.read` restricts access to Observations for the current patient context only. These scope prefixes ensure access remains bound to either the user's overall permissions or the specific patient in context.